IRIIS

System for Assessment and Certification of Infrastructure Projects

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» *veb.ru/en/sustainable-development*

IRIIS

Contents

Introduction

Infrastructure is the basis for socio-economic development throughout the world. Transport, power, water supply, telecommunications, medical and educational institutions, and other infrastructure assets ensure social well-being and quality of life, affect workforce productivity and company competitiveness and influence economic growth in general.

Quality infrastructure makes it possible to minimise the negative impact of population growth, climate change, shrinking natural resources, degraded natural ecosystems and economic crises. However, despite its social benefits, infrastructure often suffers from a lack of financing, both public and private.

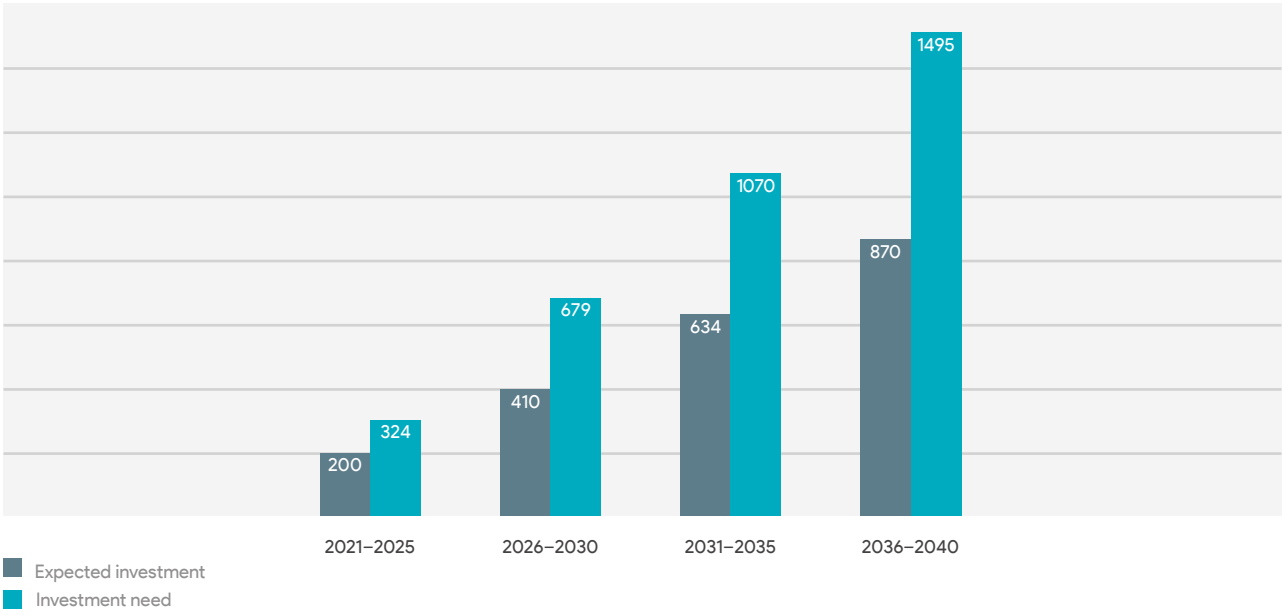
Consequently, ensuring adequate living conditions for people necessitates using new approaches for infrastructure projects that will improve the quality of their implementation and make them more attractive to investors. This is achieved by enhancing sustainability, transparency and social outcomes and environmental performance for the projects that are increasingly needed by society now and that attract financing institutions and investors across the world.

> *As estimated by UN experts, if the global population reaches **10 billion** by **2050**, the equivalent of almost **three** planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles. Furthermore, water scarcity affects more than **40 %** of the global population, while one in five people in the world lacks access to electricity.*

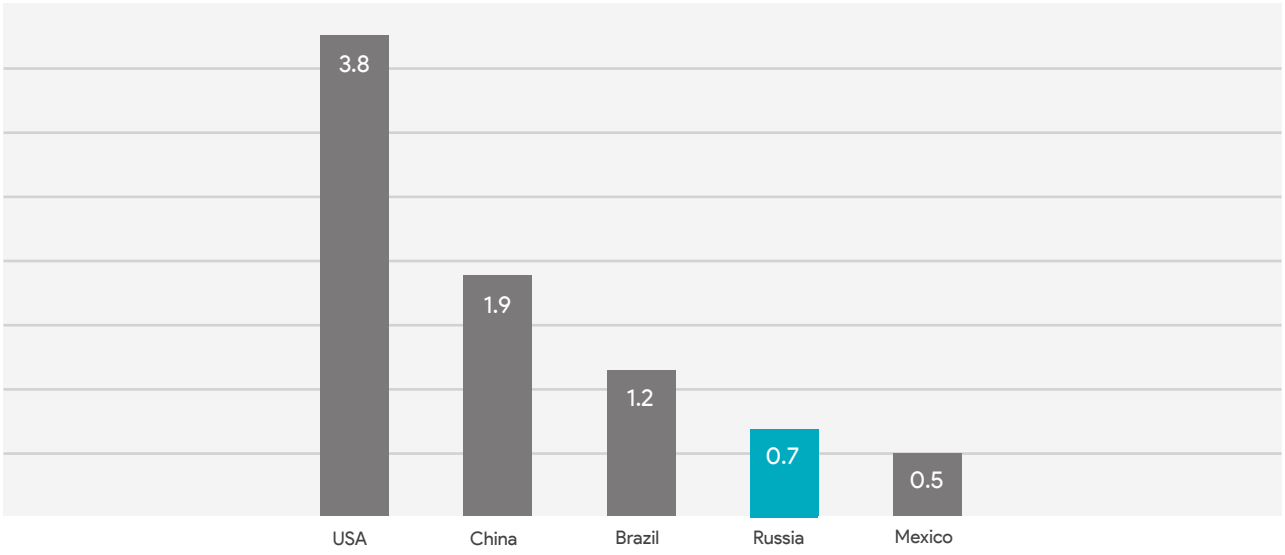
The global demand for infrastructure investment is estimated at trillions of US dollars as early as now and is expected to grow in the future.

In the coming decades, the gap between investment current trends and investment needed in Russia's infrastructure will become one of the highest in Europe and the world. By 2040 Russia will be in the TOP-5 countries with the largest shortage of infrastructure investment behind the United States, China and Brazil, while transport, power and social services will become the most underfunded infrastructure sectors.

Russia's need for infrastructure investment until 2040, $ bln



TOP-5 countries by infrastructure investment need by 2040, $ trillion



Only a small proportion of financial resources accumulated by institutional investors, financing institutions and development banks are currently channelled into infrastructure development. Almost all of them are mandated to support infrastructure projects, especially those that contribute towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and correspond to the generally recognised Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors. Moreover, this is expressly stated by many organisations in their investment or lending policies.

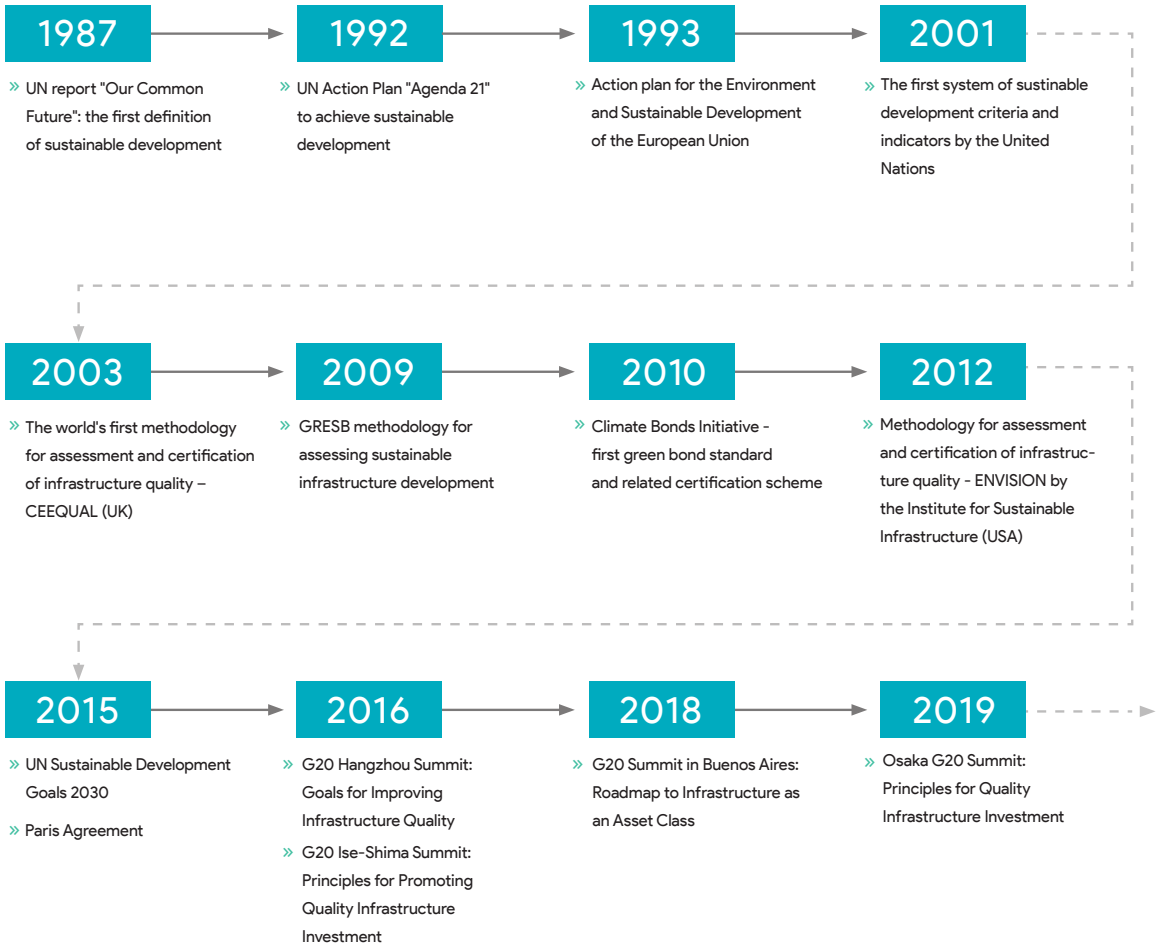
The concept of sustainable development came under extensive discussion as early as the late

20th century. It is derived from “Our Common Future”report released by the United Nations in 1987 and laying the groundwork for formulating sustainable development goals and programmes and discussing the issue on a global agenda.

> *“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*
>
> *“Our Common Future”, United Nations report*

Furthermore, this idea lies at the heart of the 17 SDGs set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The SDGs are designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future in the economic, environmental and social spheres. In this context, infrastructure is one of the main ways to attain the SDGs. This philosophy subsequently formed the basis for various initiatives of the United Nations, the European Union, the G20 and individual countries.

Timeline of sustainability initiatives



The latest and most significant event on the infrastructure agenda of international organisations took place in 2019, when the G20 approved the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment (QII Principles) establishing the criteria for sustainable and attractive infrastructure projects.

The six QII Principles encompass various aspects of preparing and carrying out infrastructure projects, including economic, governance, social and environmental aspects.

Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment (QII)

1

Maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development

- Provision of favorable conditions for economic development
- Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals
- Open access to information on infrastructure projects

2

Raising Economic Efficiency in View of Life-Cycle Cost

- Comprehensive cost-benefit analysis throughout the project life cycle
- Minimization of risks associated with an increase in the estimated cost of capital investments and untimely performance of work, as well as risks arising during the operation stage
- Use of innovative technologies to improve economic efficiency

3

Integrating Environmental Considerations in Infrastructure Investments

- Consideration of environmental issues at all stages of the project life cycle
- Transparency of information on the environmental impact of the project for all stakeholders

4

Building Resilience against Natural Disasters and Other Risks

- Implementation of risk management mechanisms for natural disasters and emergencies at the stages of infrastructure planning and design
- Ensuring the reliability of infrastructure through insurance of risks in case of emergency

5

Integrating Social Considerations in Infrastructure Investment

- Non-discrimination and open user access to infrastructure
- Implementation of the principles of inclusiveness at all stages of the life cycle of an infrastructure project
- Fair treatment of employees, ensuring equal work and self-development opportunities
- Provision of safe and healthy occupational conditions both at the infrastructure site and in the surrounding communities

6

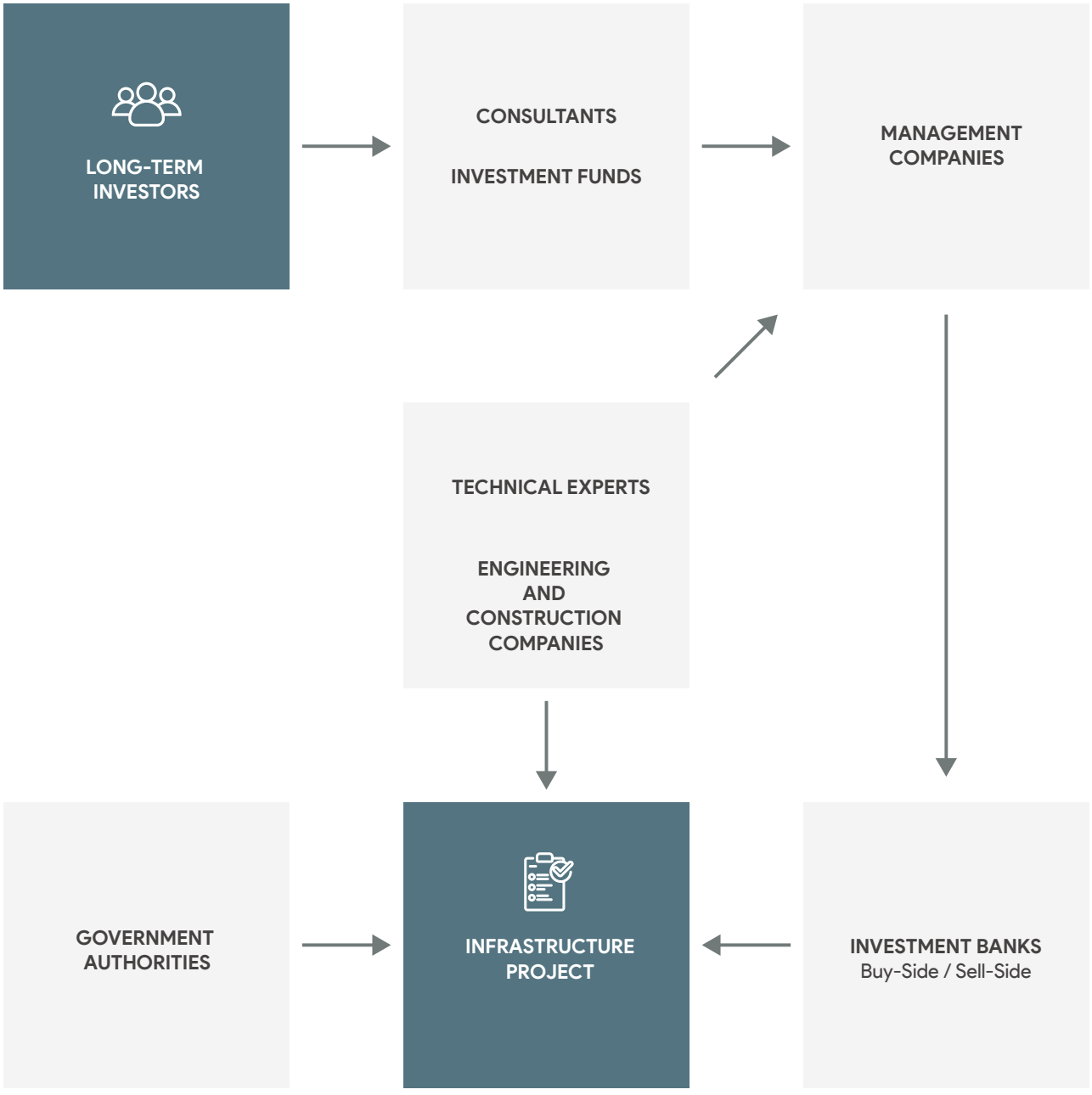
Strengthening Infrastructure Governance

- Openness and transparency of procurement
- Effective interaction of authorities in the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects
- Anti-corruption efforts, integrity of infrastructure investments
- Access to adequate information and data

At present, infrastructure projects in many countries are complicated by how to assess potential project risks, and project stakeholders are not informed enough to take decisions, including investment ones. The greatest difficulties faced by institutional investors are associated with understanding how infrastructure project initiatives are consistent with their mandates and investment policies that include sustainability approaches.

Bearing this in mind, the QII Principles give the greatest possible consideration to the requirements and approaches of international financing institutions and investors that are now urged to help to close the infrastructure gap in the world.

Infrastructure Investment Value Chain



However, the QII Principles are not a practical tool to assess the quality of project initiatives; they only provide guidance for countries on how to develop their own mechanisms.

As part of the practical implementation of the QII Principles, a national system has been developed in Russia to assess the quality and sustainability of infrastructure projects, called Impact and Responsible Investing for Infrastructure Sustainability **IRIIS**.

IRIIS

The system is aimed at improving the quality of initiated and implemented infrastructure projects and attracting private investors. **IRIIS** includes three methodological aspects of project assessment: Economy and Governance; Quality of Life; Environment and Climate.

IRIIS was developed by State Development Corporation VEB.RF, the National Center for PPP and AECOM leveraging the approaches used by foreign assessment and rating systems, namely CEEQUAL, Envision, and Infrastructure Sustainability, and adhering to the QII Principles and the UN SDGs. Leading Russian and foreign experts were involved in creating **IRIIS**.

IRIIS System

What is IRIIS?

IRIIS — is an infrastructure project assessment and certification system.

The core of IRIIS is the quality of infrastructure project assessment methodology that:

- makes it possible to assess the main aspects of project quality: Economy and Governance; Quality of Life; Environment and Climate;
- meets internationally recognised governance standards and best practices;
- fulfils the project initiative requirements of foreign investors, development institutions and financing institutions;
- expands and supplements the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

IRIIS offers project teams independent assessment for the quality of infrastructure project, awarding the final score and award level. Any qualifying project receives a certificate that confirms its quality and can be used to promote the project and obtain financing.

IRIIS is remarkable for its illustrative structure of credits, criteria, requirements and levels of achievement, which also enables the methodology to be used for the in-house assessment of projects.

IRIIS

What is IRIIS for?

IRIIS provides solutions for the most important goals related to infrastructure development.

GOAL	SOLUTION
Improve the quality of infrastructure projects according to the Principles of Quality Infrastructure Investment and the Sustainable Development Goals 01	**IRIIS** goes beyond national legal requirements and facilitates the implementation of best standards and practices
Attract new sources of financing to the infrastructure market, including foreign investors 02	**IRIIS** corresponds to the approaches of foreign methodologies for assessing the quality of infrastructure projects. The results of the assessment are recognised by international and foreign financing institutions and investors, including institutional investors
Improve the quality and competitiveness of infrastructure services 03	**IRIIS** creates a new level of requirements for all infrastructure market participants and sets modern standards for construction, design, engineering, operator, and other services
Form a professional community with expertise in sustainable development and quality infrastructure investment 04	**IRIIS** involves institute of professional accredited appraisers and verifiers. Market participants receive training in specialized educational programmes.

IRIIS

Who is IRIIS for?

All infrastructure market participants can use **IRIIS** for their own benefit:

Project owners and investors – to get an independent quality assessment and certification, including attracting additional financing for the project.

Government authorities – to increase the efficiency of public spending.

Financing institutions and investors – to get unbiased information on the project quality and its resilience against all types of risks.

Qualified experts –to participate in project assessment and verification.

What are the advantages of IRIIS?

IRIIS enables project teams to minimise risks and maximise benefits throughout the project life cycle, increase the project efficiency and safety and enhance their financial potential. **IRIIS** makes it possible to:

- obtain independent quality assessment for the infrastructure project;
- identify project weaknesses and potential project risks;
- obtain financing on preferential terms;
- improve the project team's skills;
- use an online diagnostics system to assess the project;
- receive the status of reference project and become included on the list of best practices on the Certifier's platform.

What are the principles of IRIIS?

IRIIS is based on the following principles:

1. Certification is voluntary and initiated by the project owner.
    - Assessment and certification procedures include independent verifiers checking the quality of project preparation and the availability of the necessary documents supporting the claimed score and award level.
    - A set of documents with the assessment results and supporting documents should be prepared by an accredited appraiser.
2. **IRIIS** may be freely used for the in-house assessment of projects. Any results of such assessment are for information only.
3. The in-house use of **IRIIS** is free of charge.
4. **The IRIIS** requirements are not binding and do not replace any existing rules that regulate the construction and operation of infrastructure assets.
5. **IRIIS** sets the reference standards for the quality of project preparation in accordance with international practices. **The IRIIS** requirements are updated with due consideration to opinions of financing institutions, investors and experts.
6. **IRIIS** requirements are updated regularly, taking into account the opinion of financing institutions, investors and experts.

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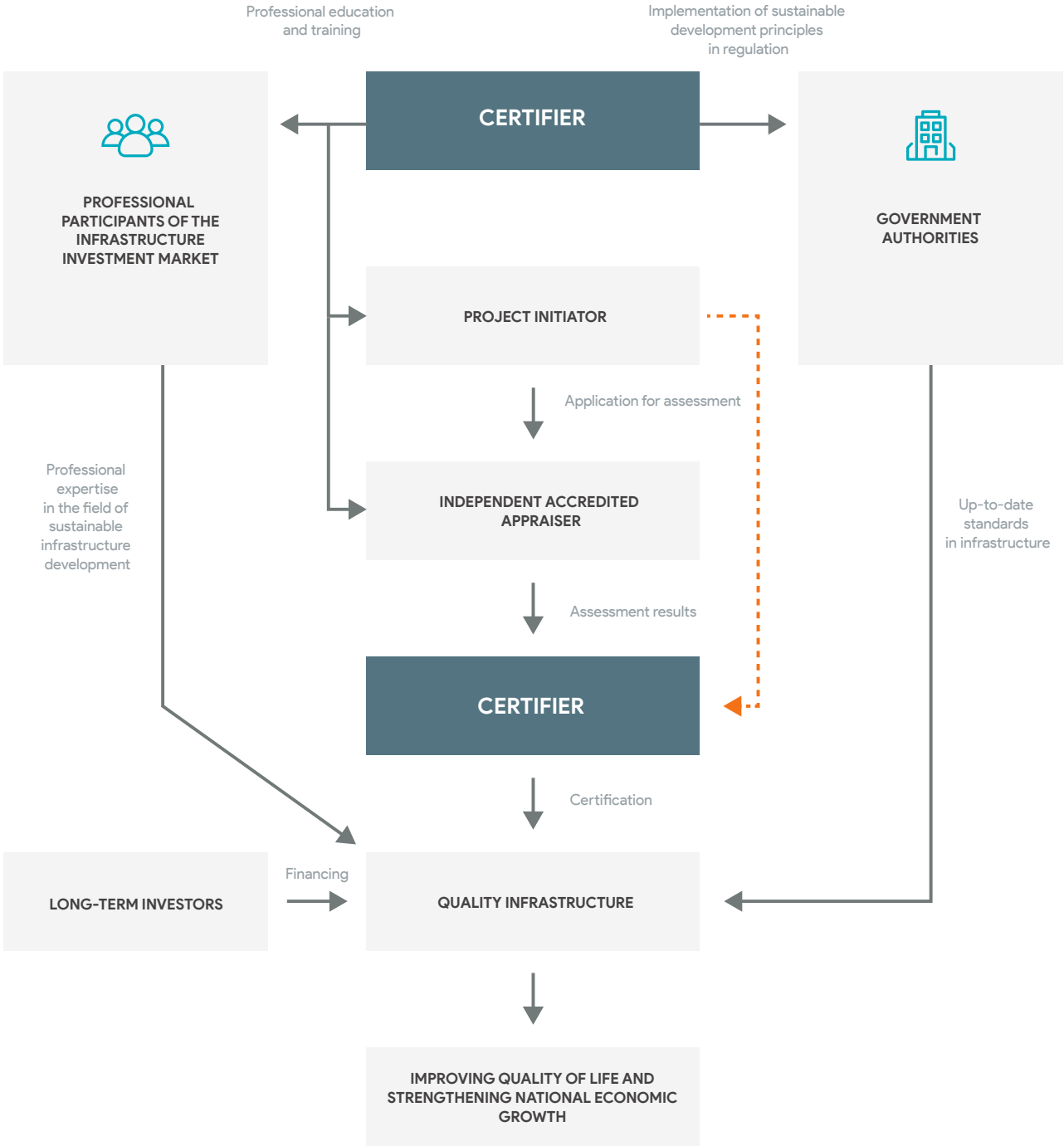
How does IRIIS function?

IRIIS functions as an integrated ecosystem:



IRIIS

The Certifier is responsible for the methodology development and promotion and issuing certificates. **The Certifier** holds the copyright on **IRIIS**. Specifically, **the Certifier**:

1. provides training and accreditation for appraisers and verifiers;
2. teaches project teams how to use **IRIIS**;
3. collects and analyses information on the project assessment results;
4. maintains a register of certified projects, appraisers and verifiers;
5. promotes, updates and administers the methodology.

Appraisers and **verifiers** play an important role in project assessment and certification.

Appraisers collect, systematise and analyse the project team's information and carry out assessment in accordance with the methodology with due regard to the project's characteristics.

Any **Appraiser** should be accredited by the **Certifier** to prepare the assessment results and submit them for subsequent verification.

If the project team does not include accredited **appraiser**, the **Certifier** provides its own **appraiser**.

Verifiers are accredited and appointed by the **Certifier**, coordinate **appraisers'** activities, confirm and, if necessary, revise the assessment results.

No **Verifier** may be a person directly or indirectly affiliated with any project participant or previously involved in project preparation or implementation.

What infrastructure areas and assets is IRIIS suitable for?

IRIIS can be used in most infrastructure spheres and sectors to assess assets of any scale and complexity.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Roads and bridges
- Railways
- Airports
- Railway terminals and transfer hubs
- River and sea ports
- Urban transport infrastructure

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Culture and tourism sites
- Healthcare facilities
- Educational facilities
- Sports venues
- Penitentiary facilities

ENGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Public utility facilities
- Waste disposal and treatment
- Ground protection

POWER FACILITIES

- Wind power generation
- Hydropower generation and tidal power generation
- Solar power plants and gas-fired power plants
- Power lines

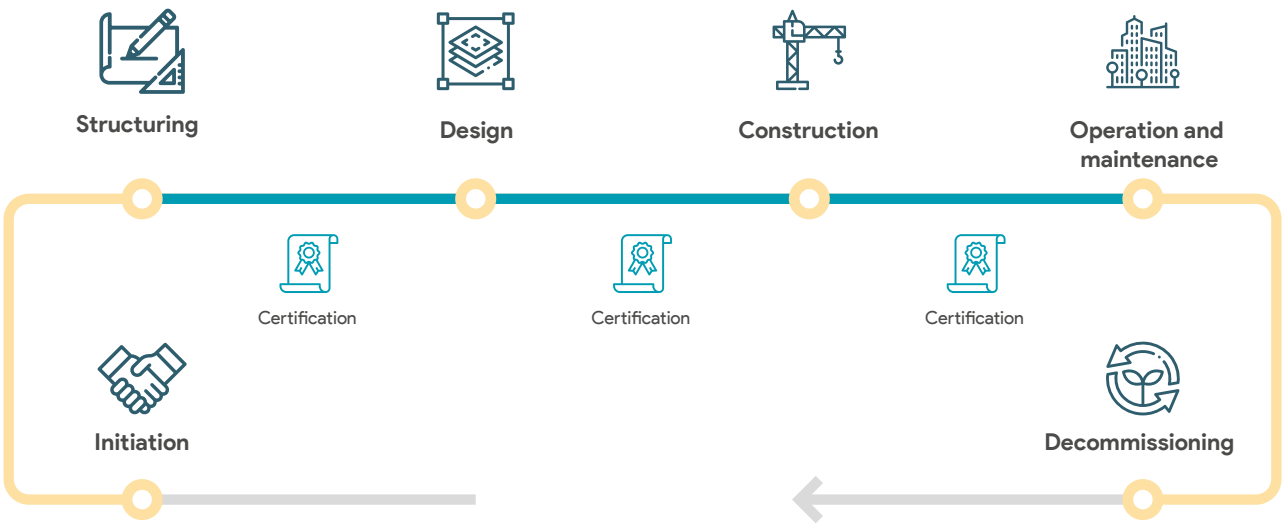
TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

What is the timeline for project assessment and certification?

IRIIS covers most stages of the infrastructure project life cycle: planning, design and construction. Assessment and certification are possible on completion of these stages.

Certification at an early stage makes it possible to identify all potential project risks and take them into consideration.

Stages of Project Assessment and Certification



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How is certification organised?

Registration

1–2 months

The Initiator applies for certification
The Initiator, Certifier and Verifier discuss certification procedure and assessment specifics

Project characteristics, including its scale of implementation and the current stage of the life-cycle, are taken into account whilst deciding upon:

- applicable credits
- maximum possible points of achievement

Verification

Step 1 — 1–3 months

The Verifier:

- analyses **the results** of the project self-assessment, carried out by **the Initiator**
- asks **the Initiator** for **additional documents**
- forms **a preliminary score**

Step 2 — 1 month

The Verifier:

- examines **additional documents**
- forms **a score**
- makes **a report** on the results of the verification

Internal project assessment

2–4 months

- **The Initiator** conducts an internal project assessment according to the IRIIS methodology
- **The internal assessment** is carried out by **the Initiator**'s staff having the required expertise, or by external professionals having **the Certifier's** accreditation

Certification

1–2 months

The Certifier:

- approves **the Verifier's report and a final score**
- gives **an award level**
- issues **the certificate**
- organises project **promotion**

6 - 12 months

Initiator
An external applicant for project certification\,- project owner who is responsible for project implementation or investor interested in independent project assessment and/or receiving a certificate.

Certifier
An entity providing the methodological support for the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS), accreditation an appraisers.

Verifier
A professional, group of professionals, entity or group of entities that are accredited by the Certifier to verify and confirm the results of the assessment carried out by the Initiator. Accreditation is carried out in accordance with the Certifier's requirements for expertise and skills, relevant to the corresponding aspects and credits of the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS).

IRIIS certification is organised into several steps and has certain specific features:

- Any certificate is applicable to the stage for which an application is submitted and/or an assessment is carried out.
- Assessment for any subsequent project stage takes into account the results obtained at the previous stage.
- The duration of assessment and certification depends on the stage and scale of the project, other project characteristics and the amount of evidence provided.
- Assessment and certification at various project stages are coordinated on the Certifier's digital platform.

IRIIS

The IRIIS methodology contains 27 credits grouped into three aspects: "Economy and Governance", "Quality of Life", "Environment and Climate". A significant excess of the maximum requirements of the methodology due to the introduction of innovations is encouraged by extra points separately for each aspect. The combination of credits forms a set of comprehensive requirements for the quality of infrastructure projects and their compliance with the goals of sustainable development.

IRIIS

IRIIS Credit List

Economy and Governance

7 credits

- **EG-1** Implementation of the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the Sustainable Development Goals
- **EG-2** Alignment with strategic planning priorities
- **EG-3** Project viability and feasibility
- **EG-4** Quality of project structuring
- **EG-5** Project risk and benefits management
- **EG-6** Internal communications and human resource management
- **EG-7** Project stakeholder engagement

Bonus points

Quality of Life

8 credits

- **QL-1** Occupational health, safety and wellbeing
- **QL-2** Minimising negative impact of construction
- **QL-3** Local job creation and involvement of local companies
- **QL-4** Asset quality for users
- **QL-5** Mobility and access
- **QL-6** Landscape and local character integrity
- **QL-7** Protection of cultural heritage
- **QL-8** Safety of asset decommissioning

Bonus points

Environment and Climate

12 credits

- **EC-1** Waste reduction
- **EC-2** Air protection
- **EC-3** Greenhouse gas emissions reduction
- **EC-4** Sustainable use of agricultural land
- **EC-5** Sustainable use of undeveloped land
- **EC-6** Biodiversity conservation
- **EC-7** Aquatic ecosystems conservation
- **EC-8** Groundwater conservation
- **EC-9** Reduction of water intensity
- **EC-10** Energy efficiency
- **EC-11** Use of renewable energy sources
- **EC-12** Use of recycled materials

Bonus points

○ major credit

credit contains obligatory requirements *

maximum level of achievement is possible

* The methodology contains the requirements that are mandatory for any project, regardless of the scale, implementation stage and infrastructure sector. Failure to meet at least one of the mandatory requirements means that the project has not been certified and cannot apply for a certificate

IRIIS

IRIIS Points Table

Maximum 3000 points

ECONOMY AND GOVERNANCE	LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT					MAXIMUM POINTS FOR CREDIT	MAXIMUM POINTS FOR ASPECT
	1	2	3	4	5		
EG-1 Implementation of the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the Sustainable Development Goals	9	18	30	43	—	100	1000
EG-2 Alignment with strategic planning priorities	15	15	15	15	25	85	
EG-3 Project viability and feasibility	12	48	60	80	—	200	
EG-4 Quality of project structuring	11	49	60	80	—	200	
EG-5 Project risk and benefits management	15	27	42	66	—	150	
EG-6 Internal communications and human resource management	15	24	36	40	—	115	
EG-7 Project stakeholder engagement	18	30	42	60	—	150	
QUALITY OF LIFE	**LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT**					**MAXIMUM POINTS FOR CREDIT**	**MAXIMUM POINTS FOR ASPECT**
	1	2	3	4	5		
QL-1 Occupational health, safety and wellbeing	9	14	32	45	—	100	1000
QL-2 Minimising negative impact of construction	15	40	45	66	—	166	
QL-3 Local job creation and involvement of local companies	15	16	22	32	—	85	
QL-4 Asset quality for users	15	20	45	60	60	200	
QL-5 Mobility and access	8	14	30	45	36	133	

QUALITY OF LIFE	LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT					MAXIMUM POINTS FOR CREDIT	MAXIMUM POINTS FOR ASPECT
	1	2	3	4	5		
QL-6 Landscape and local character integrity	8	14	30	45	36	133	
QL-7 Protection of cultural heritage	8	14	30	45	36	133	1000
QL-8 Safety of asset decommissioning	9	15	26	—	—	50	

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE	LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT					MAXIMUM POINTS FOR CREDIT	MAXIMUM POINTS FOR ASPECT
	1	2	3	4	5		
EC-1 Waste reduction	8	18	28	36	—	90	
EC-2 Air protection	8	14	27	45	21	115	
EC-3 Greenhouse gas emissions reduction	4	12	27	32	25	100	
EC-4 Sustainable use of agricultural land	4	6	10	15	20	55	
EC-5 Sustainable use of undeveloped land	4	6	10	15	20	55	
EC-6 Biodiversity conservation	6	12	27	45	20	110	1000
EC-7 Aquatic ecosystems conservation	6	12	27	45	20	110	
EC-8 Groundwater conservation	8	14	27	45	21	115	
EC-9 Reduction of water intensity	6	12	20	30	12	80	
EC-10 Energy efficiency	5	12	21	32	—	70	
EC-11 Use of renewable energy sources	4	6	10	15	20	55	
EC-12 Use of recycled materials	6	6	12	21	—	45	

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Assessment Results

Each project can be rated as compliant with one of the following five award levels: *

Award Level	Score Range, %	Score Range, points**
Diamond	95–100	2850 and above
Platinum	80–94.9	2400 to 2849
Gold	60–79.9	1800 to 2399
Silver	40–59.9	1200 to 1799
Bronze	20–39.9	600 to 1199
Not rated	0–19.9	599 and below

* The certification Initiator will be provided with detailed assessment information by methodology aspects and credits.

** For 3,000 points available by default. In practice, before the start of assessment and in consultation with the verifier, irrelevant credits can be eliminated (for example, "Sustainable use of agricultural land "for a project that is fully implemented in an urban area). In this case, the maximum score is adjusted by deducting points for irrelevant credits.

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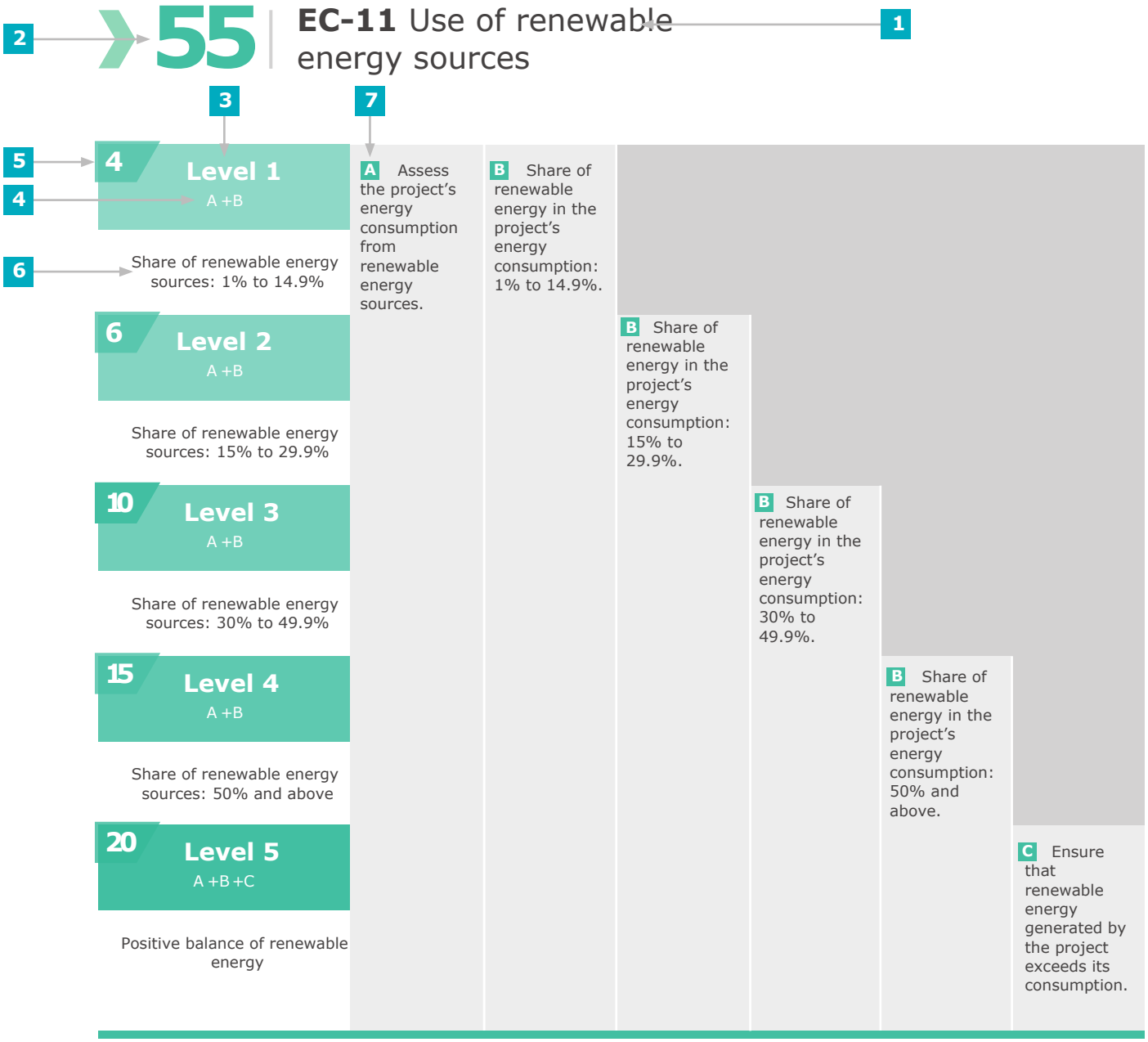
Credit Navigator



1 Credit title

2 Maximum points for credit

3 Title of level of achievement

4 Structure of criteria by levels of achievement

5 Points for levels of achievement

6 Summary of requirements of level of achievement

7 Criterion title

8 Description

Infrastructure projects should focus on the use of renewable energy sources, which substantially reduces hazardous and greenhouse gas emissions. The transition to renewable energy is an important component of the low-carbon development concept shared by the world community. The share of renewable energy in global energy supply demonstrates steady growth due to countries' commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease production costs of wind and solar energy.

9 Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption is 1–14.9%.

Level 2: The share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption is 15–29.9%.

10 Assessment Elements

11 **(A)** Assess the project's energy consumption from renewable energy sources.

12 *A.1* The project team should assess the project's energy consumption by energy resource. The assessment should cover energy consumption from renewable energy sources.

Evidence Guidance 13

(A) Findings of assessing the project's energy consumption from renewable energy sources.

CVs of qualified professionals.

Relevant QII Principles 14

- **Principle 3**: Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments

Related Credits 15

- **EC-10** Energy efficiency

8 Summary of the credit's connection with the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and Sustainable Development Goals

9 Integrated specifications of credit requirements at each level of achievement

10 A set of detailed requirements for credit criterions

11 Criterion title

12 Definition of criterion requirement

13 List of documentary evidences to prove fulfillment of criterion requirements

14 List of Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment relevant for credit requirements

15 List of other IRIIS credits similar to this credit

x

Infrastructure projects should be cost-effective at all stages of the life cycle. Project governance should ensure the efficiency of communication processes, minimizing the negative and maximizing the positive effects of its implementation. Economy and Governance contain the basic requirements for the quality of the financial and legal structure of the project, taking into account the principles of quality infrastructure investment and sustainable development; assess how the implementation of the project is in line with national strategic development goals. The aspect assesses the quality of management of potential risks and benefits, as well as the quality of internal and external communications.

EG-1 Implementation of the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the Sustainable Development Goals

EG-2 Alignment with strategic planning priorities

EG-3 Project viability and feasibility

EG-4 Quality of project structuring

EG-5 Project risk and benefits management

EG-6 Internal communications and human resource management

EG-7 Project stakeholder engagement

Bonus points

Credit List

100 | EG-1 Implementation of the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the Sustainable Development Goals

9 Level 1
A + B + C

Analysis of the SDGs and QII Principles

- A Define and analyse the project's goals and objectives.
- B Identify and analyse the relevant QII Principles and SDGs.

18 Level 2
A + B + C + D + E

Preparation of the plan and management mechanisms

- C Assess the project's goals and objectives for compliance with the QII Principles and SDGs; define the project's goals and objectives related to the QII Principles and SDGs.
- D Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to implement the QII Principles and SDGs.
- E Ensure that the task force formulates a plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs.

30 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F + G

Plan implementation and updating

- F Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs on a regular basis.

  AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

  Update the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs based on the findings of the evaluation.
- G Ensure that the task force works to integrate the QII Principles and SDGs into project decision-making.

43 Level 4
A+B+C+D+E+F+G+H+I+J+K

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

- H Involve government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in the task force's activities.

  Involve project stakeholders in the task force's activities.
- I Organise independent verification on the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs and on the outcomes of the plan.
- J Provide unrestricted access to the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.
- K Ensure that disclosures about the implementation of the QII Principles and SDGs are compliant with the GRI Standards.

Level 5
N/A

Description

The project gives particular consideration to quality infrastructure investment and sustainable development through the institutional formalisation and organisational implementation of relevant mechanisms within a special plan.

The plan makes it possible to formalise the implementation of the QII Principles and SDGs, introduce relevant mechanisms and KPIs, identify responsible officers and monitor implementation progress.

The plan makes it more likely that the project will achieve the necessary QII and sustainability outcomes, including social outcomes. The plan facilitates the implementation of QII projects that are fully compliant with the QII Principles and SDGs.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The project team defines the project's goals and objectives and assesses the project's potential contribution towards the QII Principles and SDGs.

Level 2: The project team formulates a plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs and organisational mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the plan and managing related processes.

Level 3: The plan is introduced and monitored; progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated; the QII Principles and SDGs are given proper consideration in project decision-making.

Level 4: Quality and transparency are ensured in implementing the QII Principles and SDGs, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in relevant processes and by having independent verification conducted.

Assessment Elements

(A) Define and analyse the project's goals and objectives.

A.1 *It is necessary to define and document the project's goals and objectives.*

(B) Identify and analyse the relevant QII Principles and SDGs.

B.1 *It is necessary to identify the QII Principles and SDGs that are relevant to the project. It is necessary to describe in detail how the project addresses and implements the principles, what are the particularities of and the mechanisms for integrating the principles into the project and what are the key areas of applying the principles in the project.*

(C) Assess the project's goals and objectives for compliance with the QII Principles and SDGs, define the project's goals and objectives related to the QII Principles and SDGs.

C.1 *It is necessary to assess how consistent the project's goals and objectives formulated in Criterion (A) are with the QII Principles and SDGs and to what extent and how the project's goals and objectives correspond to the QII Principles and SDGs.*

C.2 *If necessary and based on the findings of the assessment, the project's goals and objectives should be adjusted to ensure greater compliance with the QII Principles and SDGs.*

C.3 *In addition to integrating the QII Principles and SDGs into the project's goals and objectives, the implementation of the QII Principles and SDGs requires the project's special goals and objectives related to the QII Principles and SDGs to be defined.*

(D) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to implement the QII Principles and SDGs.

D.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to the QII Principles and SDGs.*

D.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.*

D.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to the QII Principles and SDGs should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(E) Ensure that the task force formulates a plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs.

E.1 *The task force should formulate a consolidated plan (or separate plans) to implement the QII Principles and SDGs.*

E.2 *The plan should include goals and targets in relation to the implementation of the QII Principles and SDGs at the entire project's level as well as associated goals and targets at all stages of the project life cycle and in all relationships with counterparties throughout the supply chain.*

E.3 *The plan should be provided with the necessary measures, mechanisms and instruments to meet the goals and targets.*

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs on a regular basis.

F.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments to*

meet the goals and targets of the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every 3 months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs based on the findings of the evaluation.

F.2.1 The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.

(G) Ensure that the task force works to integrate the QII Principles and SDGs into project decision-making.

G.1 The task force should systematically assist all project participants with project decision-making in order to ensure compliance with the QII Principles and SDGs. Such assistance is provided by means of assessing draft decisions and submitting assessment-based opinions and proposals to adjust decisions.

(H)

1. Involve government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in the task force's activities.

H.1.1 The task force's activities regularly involve government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant agenda items of the task force's meetings. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs and in respect of integrating the QII Principles and SDGs into project decision-making.

2. Involve project stakeholders in the task force's activities.

H.2.1 All or some of the task force's meetings are open to project stakeholders.

H.2.2 Project stakeholders are entitled to make enquiries to task force members, put forward proposals, make remarks and receive replies and comments.

(I) Organise independent verification on the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs and on the outcomes of the plan.

I.1 The plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.

I.2 Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.

(J) Provide unrestricted access to the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J.1 The task force's plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs, the plan implementation reports annually submitted by the task force, the task force's opinions and proposals based on the assessment of

draft decisions, and reports on the involvement of government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders, along with the minutes of the task force's meetings and other relevant information, are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team, or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

(K) Ensure that disclosures about the implementation of the QII Principles and SDGs are compliant with the GRI Standards.

K.1 *It is necessary to organise independent verification on whether disclosures about the implementation of the QII Principles and SDGs are compliant with the GRI Standards.*

AND (both requirements should be fulfilled)

K.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

Evidence Guidance

(A) Project concept or other documents containing the project's goals and objectives.
(B) List of the relevant QII Principles and SDGs.
(C) Findings of the assessment of whether the project's goals and objectives are consistent with the QII Principles and SDGs.
(D) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.
(E) Plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs.
(F) Plan implementation report for the QII Principles and SDGs. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.
(G) Task force's opinions and proposals based on the assessment of draft decisions.
(H)

- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(I)

- Report on independent verification on the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs.

(J) Online platforms used to publish the plan to implement the QII Principles and SDGs, plan implementation reports, reports on the task force's activities and other relevant information.
(K) Report on independent verification on whether disclosures about the implementation of the QII Principles and SDGs are compliant with the GRI Standards.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 1** "Maximising the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development"
- **Principle 6** "Strengthening infrastructure governance"

Related Credits

- **EG-2** Alignment with strategic planning priorities
- **EG-5** Project risk and benefits management

85 EG-2 Alignment with strategic planning priorities

15 Level 1 A Local significance	A The project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at local (municipal) level. OR The project is included on the list of planned infrastructure projects at local (municipal) level.				
15 Level 2 B Regional significance		B The project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at regional level. OR The project is included on the list of planned infrastructure projects at regional level.			
15 Level 3 C National significance			C The project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at national level. OR The project is included on the list of planned infrastructure projects at national level.		
15 Level 4 D International status				D The project receives financing from international development institutions or foreign financiers.	
25 Level 5 (C or D)+E International significance					C The project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at national level. OR The project is included on the list of planned infrastructure projects at national level. OR D The project receives financing from international development institutions or foreign financiers. E The project does not produce negative cross-border effects. AND The project produces positive cross-border effects.

Descriptiom

Projects that meet the requirements of the Methodology are aimed at improving quality of life and facilitating socio-economic development and are aligned with public interests and priorities in terms of strategic planning, especially if any project receives public financing.

Indirect, but no less important evidence of the foregoing is the fact that the project receives financing from foreign financiers and international development institutions.

It is equally important that improving quality of life through infrastructure investment should not entail impairing quality of life in other countries through the cross-border transfer of pollutants, invasive species or otherwise.

Levels of Achievement

The strategic significance levels awarded to the project within this credit are not dependent on the project's implementation level.

The project team should prove that the project has a specific strategic significance level.

Therefore, projects can be awarded different strategic significance levels as follows:

- Projects can reach a strategic significance level corresponding to the project's implementation level.
- If sufficient evidence is available, projects can reach a strategic significance level higher than the project's implementation level.
- If no sufficient evidence is available to prove a level corresponding to the project's implementation level, projects can have a lower strategic significance level lower.
- Regardless of the project's implementation level, all projects can reach Level 4 (international status) by receiving financing from international development institutions or foreign financiers.

Level 1: The project is of strategic significance at local (municipal) level.

Level 2: The project is of strategic significance at regional level.

Level 3: The project is of strategic significance at national level.

Level 4: If the project receives financing from international development institutions or foreign financiers, this proves the project's international status. With a view to obtaining financing from international development institutions and foreign financiers, the Methodology does not limit the ability of projects with any implementation level and any strategic significance level to reach Level 4 (international status).

Level 5: The highest level of achievement (international significance) can be reached by projects that are of strategic significance at international level and also produce positive cross-border effects. Another essential requirement is that the project should not produce negative cross-border effects. This level of achievement can be reached by projects that are of strategic significance at national level or have international status if they receive financing from international development institutions or foreign financiers.

Assessment Elements

(A)

1. The project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at local (municipal) level.

   Strategic planning documents at local (municipal) level [1] are as follows:

   - *municipal socio-economic development strategy;*
   - *action plan to implement the municipal socio-economic development strategy;*
   - *medium- or long-term forecast of municipal socio-economic development;*
   - *municipal socio-economic development strategy;*
   - *long-term municipal budget forecast;*
   - *municipal programmes;*
   - *master plan; general layout.*

   A.1.1 *At the stage of project initiation, the project team should declare its intention to make a contribution towards the specific targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at local (municipal) level.*

   A.1.2 *At the stage of project structuring and design, the project team should identify the relevant targets and indicators that are to be achieved by the project and should quantitatively assess the planned contribution towards each target and each indicator. The identified relevant targets and indicators should be related to strategic planning documents at local (municipal) level.*

   A.1.3 *After the project is put into operation, the project team should report regularly (at least once every six months) on the achievement of the identified targets and indicators by including the relevant information in publicly available corporate reports and/or publishing reports on the organisation's website.*

   A.1.4 *The project team should provide evidence that the project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at local (municipal) level.*

   OR

2. The project is included on the list of planned infrastructure projects at local (municipal) level.

   A.2.1 The project team should provide the list of infrastructure projects planned at local (municipal) level and including the assessed project. The list should be (part of) an official document.

(B)

1. The project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at regional level.

   Strategic planning documents at regional level [2] are as follows:

   - *regional socio-economic development strategy;*
   - *long-term forecast of regional socio-economic development;*
   - *long-term regional budget*

[1] Including in accordance with Part 5 of Article 11 of Federal Law No. 172-FZ of 28 June 2014 "On Strategic Planning in the Russian Federation".

[2] Including in accordance with Part 4 of Article 11 of Federal Law No. 172-FZ of 28 June 2014 "On Strategic Planning in the Russian Federation".

forecast;

- *regional socio-economic development strategy;*
- *medium-term forecast of regional socio-economic development;*
- *action plan to implement the regional socio-economic development strategy;*
- *regional government programmes;*
- *regional projects ensuring the achievement of the goals, indicators and outcomes of federal projects and containing measures that are statutorily within the purview of a regional government and within the purview of the governments of municipalities located in a Russian region;*
- *spatial planning scheme of two or more Russian regions; spatial planning scheme of a Russian region;*
- *master plan; general layout.*

B.1.1 *At the stage of project initiation, the project team should declare its intention to make a contribution towards the specific targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at regional level.*

B.1.2 *At the stage of project structuring and design, the project team should identify the relevant targets and indicators that are to be achieved by the project and should quantitatively assess the planned contribution towards each target and each indicator. The identified relevant targets and indicators should be related to strategic planning documents at regional level.*

B.1.3 *After the project is put into operation, the project team should report regularly (at least once every six months) on the achievement of the identified targets and indicators by including the relevant information in publicly available corporate reports and/or publishing reports on the organisation's website.*

B.1.4 *The project team should provide evidence that the project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at regional level.*

OR

2. The project is included on the list of planned infrastructure projects at regional level.

B.2.1 *The project team should provide the list of planned infrastructure projects at regional level containing the assessed project. The list should be (part of) an official document.*

(C)

1. The project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at national level.

Strategic planning documents at national (federal) level [3] *are as follows:*

- *annual Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;*
- *Russian socio-economic development strategy;*
- *Russian national security strategy; fundamentals of government policy, doctrines and other documents on Russian national security;*

[3] Including in accordance with Part 3 of Article 11 of Federal Law No. 172-FZ of 28 June "On Strategic Planning in the Russian Federation".

- *Russian scientific and technological development strategy;*
- *Russian industry-specific strategic planning documents;*
- *Russian spatial development strategy;*
- *socio-economic development strategies of macro-regions;*
- *forecast of Russian scientific and technological development;*
- *Russian strategic forecast;*
- *long-term forecast of Russian socio-economic development;*
- *Russian long-term budget forecast;*
- *medium-term forecast of Russian socio-economic development;*
- *principal activity areas of the Government of the Russian Federation;*
- *federal government programmes;*
- *national projects, federal projects, departmental projects and regional projects ensuring the achievement of and targets set by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 474 of 21 July 2020 "On the National Goals and Strategic Objectives of Development of the Russian Federation for the Period Until 2030";*
- *Russian state armament programme;*
- *Russian spatial planning schemes;*
- *action plans of federal executive agencies.*

C.1.1 *At the stage of project initiation, the project team should declare its intention to make a contribution towards the specific targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at national (federal) level.*

C.1.2 *At the stage of project structuring and design, the project team should identify the relevant targets and indicators that are to be achieved by the project and should quantitatively assess the planned contribution towards each target and each indicator. The identified relevant targets and indicators should be related to strategic planning documents at national (federal) level.*

C.1.3 *After the project is put into operation, the project team should report regularly (at least once every six months) on the achievement of the identified targets and indicators by including the relevant information in publicly available corporate reports and/or publishing reports on the organisation's website.*

C.1.4 *The project team should provide evidence that the project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at national (federal) level.*

OR

2. The project is included on the list of planned infrastructure projects at national level.

C.2.1 *The project team should provide the list of planned infrastructure projects at national (federal) level containing the assessed project. The list should be (part of) an official document.*

(D) The project receives financing from international development institutions or foreign financiers.

D.1 *The project should receive financing from international development institutions, including multilateral institutions and/or multilateral development banks, in the amount of at least 10 % of the project's total financing.*

OR

D.2 *The project should receive financing from foreign financiers, including banks and/or institutional investors, in the amount of at least 10 % of the project's total financing. Foreign financiers are banks, investment funds, pension funds, insurance undertakings and credit unions resident in foreign jurisdictions. No foreign financier may be resident in any offshore jurisdiction.*

(E)

1. The project does not produce negative cross-border effects.

   E.1.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the project does not produce negative cross-border effects. Examples of such effects are the cross-border transfer of pollutants, the spread of invasive species, and other acts that are detrimental to the interests of any countries affected by the project and that may have implications and give rise to liability at international level (in accordance with the rules of the WTO, the United Nations, the OECD etc).*

   AND (both requirements should be fulfilled)

2. The project produces positive cross-border effects.

   E.2.1 *The project team should provide documentary evidence received from foreign public authorities and showing that the project produces positive cross-border effects. Such effects should be expressed in quantitative terms.*

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Document declaring the project team's intention to make a contribution towards the specific targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at local (municipal) level.
- List of relevant targets and indicators that are to be achieved by the project; quantitative assessments of the planned contribution towards each target and each indicator.
- Reports on the achievement of the identified targets and indicators.
- Evidence that the project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at local (municipal) level.

OR

- List of infrastructure projects planned at local (municipal) level, which is (part of) an official document.

(B)

- Document declaring the project team's intention to make a contribution towards the specific targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at regional level.
- List of relevant targets and indicators that are to be achieved by the project; quantitative assessments of the planned contribution towards each target and each indicator.
- Reports on the achievement of the identified targets and indicators.
- Evidence that the project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at regional level.

OR

- List of infrastructure projects planned at regional level, which is (part of) an official document.

(C)

- Document declaring the project team's intention to make a contribution towards the specific targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at national (federal) level.
- List of relevant targets and indicators that are to be achieved by the project; quantitative assessments of the planned contribution towards each target and each indicator.
- Reports on the achievement of the identified targets and indicators.
- Evidence that the project makes a significant contribution towards the targets and indicators of strategic planning documents at national (federal) level.

OR

- List of infrastructure projects planned at national (federal) level, which is (part of) an official document.

(D)

- Evidence that the project receives financing from international development institutions, including multilateral institutions and/or multilateral development banks.

OR

- Evidence that the project receives financing from foreign financiers.

(E)

1. The project does not produce negative cross-border effects.
   - Documentary evidence that the project does not produce negative cross-border effects.

     OR

   - Report on independent verification proving that no documentary evidence can show that the project produces negative cross-border effects.
2. The project produces positive cross-border effects.
   - Documentary evidence received from foreign public authorities and showing that the project produces positive cross-border effects.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 1** "Maximising the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development."

Related Credits

- **EG-1** Implementation of the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the Sustainable Development Goals
- **EG-3** Project viability and feasibility
- **EG-5** Project risk and benefits management

200 | EG-3 Project viability and feasibility

12 Level 1
A + B

Basic project assessment

48 Level 2
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Advanced project assessment

60 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J + K

Extended project assessment and practical use of project assessment findings

80 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J + K + L + M + N + O

Quality and transparency of project assessment

Level 5
N/A

A Assess project viability.

B Assess project feasibility.

C Analyse the project's economic viability as part of project viability assessment.

D Analyse the project's technical feasibility as part of project feasibility assessment.

E Analyse the availability of necessary financing instruments and sources in the market as part of project feasibility assessment.

Analyse the project's appeal for investors and financiers as part of project feasibility assessment.

F Analyse the project's legal feasibility as part of project feasibility assessment.

G Analyse the availability of necessary human resources in the market as part of project feasibility assessment.

H Analyse the availability of necessary corporate counterparties in the market as part of project feasibility assessment.

I Analyse the availability of necessary insurance instruments and sources in the market as part of project feasibility assessment.

J Substantiate the project's environmental sustainability as part of project feasibility assessment.

Substantiate the project's social sustainability as part of project feasibility assessment.

K Decide on project - implementation and define project characteristics, using assessed project viability and feasibility.

L Substantiate assessed project viability and feasibility by calculating the relevant indicators specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment.

M Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing project viability and feasibility.

N Organise independent verification on assessed project viability and feasibility.

O Provide unrestricted access to information about assessed project viability and feasibility and to associated reports.

Description

Integrating the QII Principles and SDGs into project preparation processes contributes to setting up socially sustainable projects.

Using clear and transparent assessment criteria to assess project viability and feasibility makes it possible to formalise the preparation of an economically, environmentally, socially and technically sustainable project.

The fact that a project is needed by the market and is sustainable determines considerably its future successful implementation throughout its life cycle. Projects compliant with the QII Principles and SDGs should be reasonable and efficient.

The right project selection forms, in large part, the basis for carrying out a project that is fully compliant with the QII Principles and SDGs. If unreasonably selected at the very beginning, the project can hardly meet the QII Principles and SDGs.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Project viability and feasibility are substantiated.

Level 2: The requirements applicable to the content of assessing project viability and feasibility are fulfilled by accomplishing a number of assessment elements.

Level 3: The requirements applicable to assessing project feasibility are fulfilled by substantiating the project's environmental and social sustainability; assessed project viability and feasibility are integrated into the project by using them as a basis for project decision-making, including in relation to defining project characteristics.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of assessing project viability and feasibility are ensured, including by involving project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in relevant processes and organising independent verification.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess project viability.

A.1 *The project team should provide the findings of project viability assessment. The assessment should include substantiating the project's goal, relevance, scope and socio-economic feasibility.*

A.2 *Project viability assessment should include considering strategic alternatives, such as carrying out the project through the creation (rehabilitation) of infrastructure assets, rejecting the project in favour of the use of existing infrastructure assets, changing the project site, changing the project schedule etc.*

A.3 *Project viability assessment includes quantitative analysis and necessary estimates, including in respect of the project's socio-economic feasibility and compared strategic alternatives.*

A.4 *Project viability assessment should use a transparent and reasonable methodology based on formalised criteria.*

A.5 *Project viability assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

(B) Assess project feasibility.

B.1 *The project team should provide the findings of project feasibility assessment.*

B.2 *Project feasibility assessment includes substantiating the project's construction and operation costs, including by making quantitative estimates.*

B.3 *Project feasibility assessment includes analysing whether or not the project's asset and land are free of any third-party liens or claims.*

B.4 *Project feasibility assessment should use a transparent and reasonable methodology based on formalised criteria.*

B.5 *Project feasibility assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

(C) Analyse the project's economic viability as part of project viability assessment.

C.1 *Project viability assessment should include analysing the project's economic viability, such as the potential market for the project's services. Assessing the project's economic viability includes quantitative analysis and necessary estimates.*

C.2 *Assessing the project's economic viability includes cost-benefit analysis.*

C.3 *Assessing the project's economic viability includes financial metrics, such as the project's internal rate of return, net present value etc.*

C.4 *Assessing the project's economic viability includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(D) Analyse the project's technical feasibility as part of project feasibility assessment.

D.1 *Project feasibility assessment should include analysing the project's technical feasibility. The analysis should include assessing the project's main technical aspects (use of best available techniques in the project; suitability of the selected project site and its accessibility throughout the project life cycle; suitability of production processes for the project's intended use; availability of resources, technologies and equipment necessary for the project's construction and operation, their potential use and efficient operation*

in specific conditions).

D.2 *Analysing the project's technical feasibility includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(E)

1. Analyse the availability of necessary financing instruments and sources in the market as part of project feasibility assessment.

   E.1.1 *Substantiating project feasibility should include assessing the availability of necessary financing instruments and sources in the market in the context of the affordable and transparent terms of debt and equity financing, special decisions taken by financiers to finance infrastructure projects, and successful experience of infrastructure project financing.*

2. Analyse the project's appeal for investors and financiers as part of project feasibility assessment.

   E.2.1 *Substantiating project feasibility should include analysing the project's appeal for investors and/or financiers in the context of the project's ability to obtain sufficient financing.*

   E.2.2 *Analysing the project's appeal for investors and/or financiers includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(F) Analyse the project's legal feasibility as part of project feasibility assessment.

F.1 *Substantiating project feasibility should include assessing the project's legal feasibility, including compliance with basic legal requirements, the availability of the necessary regulatory framework for the project and the legal basis (methodology) for charging and periodically revising fees for the project's services, and the absence of relevant negative legal precedents, restrictions on currency exchange and capital flow or other legal restrictions.*

F.2 *Assessing the project's legal feasibility includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(G) Analyse the availability of necessary human resources in the market as part of project feasibility assessment.

G.1 *Substantiating project feasibility should include assessing the availability of human resources in the market, including the project's location, necessary to carry out the project at all stages of the project life cycle with due consideration to the required number of employees and their professional competencies and qualifications.*

(H) Analyse the availability of necessary corporate counterparties in the market as part of project feasibility assessment.

H.1 *Substantiating project feasibility should include assessing the availability of corporate counterparties in the market, including the project's location, necessary to supply the project with required goods, services and intellectual property rights throughout the supply chain and at all stages of the project life cycle, such as contractors, suppliers, consultants, operators etc.*

(I) Analyse the availability of necessary insurance instruments and sources in the market as part of project feasibility assessment.

I.1 *Substantiating project feasibility should include assessing the availability of necessary insurance instruments and sources in the market against property, financial, business and other risks relevant to the project.*

(J)

1. Substantiate the project's environmental sustainability as part of project feasibility assessment.

   J.1.1 *Project feasibility assessment should include substantiating the project's environmental sustainability. Specifically, it is necessary to assess the project's potential negative impact on the environment and climate, the resilience of design solutions and project elements to environmental and climatic changes, natural hazards and industrial accidents, and the effectiveness of the project's environmental management strategy. Substantiating project feasibility should include considering the environmental situation in the project's location.*

   J.1.2 *Substantiating the project's environmental sustainability includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

2. Substantiate the project's social sustainability as part of project feasibility assessment.

   J.2.1 *Project feasibility assessment should include substantiating the project's social sustainability. Specifically, it is necessary to assess the project's potential negative impact on the health and quality of life of employees, customers and project stakeholders, and the effectiveness of the project's social management strategy. Substantiating project feasibility should include considering the social situation in the project's location.*

   J.2.2 *Substantiating the project's social sustainability includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(K) Decide on project implementation and define project characteristics, using assessed project viability and feasibility.

K.1 *Deciding on project implementation and defining project characteristics should be based on assessed project viability. The project team should provide relevant evidence.*

K.2 *Deciding on project implementation and defining project characteristics should be based on assessed project feasibility. The project team should provide relevant evidence.*

(L) Substantiate assessed project viability and feasibility by calculating the relevant indicators specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment.

L.1 *Assessed project viability should be substantiated by calculating the relevant indicators specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment sourced from international financial institutions and development institutions.*

L.2 *Assessed project feasibility should be substantiated by calculating the relevant indicators specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment sourced from international financial institutions and development institutions.*

(M) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing project viability and feasibility.

M.1 *Assessing project viability and feasibility should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations*

for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues.

(N) Organise independent verification on assessed project viability and feasibility.

N.1 Assessed project viability and feasibility should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover all relevant data, including background information and assessment findings, and the principles of data handling, including all assumptions, methods and models.

N.2 Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.

(O) Provide unrestricted access to information about assessed project viability and feasibility and to associated reports.

O.1 The findings of project viability assessment and project feasibility assessment, the decision on project implementation, economic feasibility, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and the minutes of working meetings and other relevant information are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team, or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Project viability assessment methodology.
- Findings of project viability assessment.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Project feasibility assessment methodology.
- Findings of project feasibility assessment.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(C) Findings of project viability assessment.

(D) — (J)

- Findings of project feasibility assessment.

(K)

- Decision on project implementation.
- Economic feasibility.

(L)

- Calculated project viability indicators specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment.
- Calculated project feasibility indicators specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment.

(M)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(N)

- Report on independent verification on assessed project viability.
- Report on independent verification on assessed project feasibility.

(O) Online platforms used to publish the findings of project option assessment, the decision on project implementation,

economic feasibility, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and other relevant information.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 2** "Raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost"

Related Credits

- **EG-2** Alignment with strategic planning priorities
- **EG-4** Quality of project structuring
- **EG-5** Project risk and benefits management

200 EG-4 Quality of project structuring

11 Level 1
A

Basic project assessment

49 Level 2
A + B + C + D + E + F

Advanced project assessment

60 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H

Practical use of project assessment findings

80 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J + K + L

Quality and transparency of project assessment

Level 5
N/A

A Assess project options to identify optimum project characteristics.

B Analyse and substantiate technical and technological project characteristics as part of project option assessment.

C Analyse and substantiate project costs and benefits as part of project option assessment.

Analyse project cost-effectiveness as part of project option assessment.

D Analyse and substantiate the project's funding as part of project option assessment.

E Analyse and substantiate the project's financing as part of project option assessment.

F Analyse and substantiate the project's legal structure as part of project option assessment.

G Decide on project implementation and define project characteristics, using assessed project options.

H Define and incorporate relevant goals and targets in relation to project costs and benefits.

I Substantiate assessed project options by calculating the indicators of quality of project structuring specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment.

J Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing project options.

K Organise independent verification on assessed project options.

L Provide unrestricted access to information about assessed project options and to associated reports.

Description

Integrating the QII Principles and SDGs into project preparation processes contributes to setting up adequately prepared projects.

Using clear and transparent assessment criteria, comparing project options and selecting the best option to assess technical, technological, financial and legal project characteristics make it possible to formalise the preparation of an adequately structured project.

The fact that a project is adequately prepared determines considerably its future successful implementation throughout its life cycle. Projects compliant with the QII Principles and SDGs should be adequately structured.

Adequate project preparation forms, in large part, the basis for carrying out a project that is fully compliant with the QII Principles and SDGs. If incorrectly prepared at the very beginning, the project can hardly meet the QII Principles and SDGs.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Project options are assessed to identify optimum project characteristics.

Level 2: The requirements applicable to the content of assessing project options are fulfilled by accomplishing a number of assessment elements.

Level 3: Assessed project options are integrated into the project by using them as a basis for project decision-making, including in relation to defining project characteristics and defining goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of assessing project options are ensured, including by involving project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in relevant processes and organising independent verification.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess project options to identify optimum project characteristics.

- A.1 *The project team should provide the findings of project option assessment to identify optimum project characteristics.*
- A.2 *The list of project options should be reasonable. Project options should be unique and reflect all the most significant alternatives.*
- A.3 *Project option assessment includes quantitative analysis and necessary estimates.*
- A.4 *Project option assessment should use a transparent and reasonable methodology based on formalised criteria.*
- A.5 *Project option assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

(B) Analyse and substantiate technical and technological project characteristics as part of project option assessment.

- B.1 *Project option assessment should include analysing technical and technological project characteristics, such as technologies, design solutions, materials etc. Analysing the project's technologies includes using methods designed to improve the value of the project's products and services (for example, Value Engineering) and applying digital engineering technology (for example, Building Information Modelling).*
- B.2 *Analysing technical and technological project characteristics includes quantitative analysis and necessary estimates.*
- B.3 *Analysing technical and technological project characteristics includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(C)

1. Analyse and substantiate project costs and benefits as part of project option assessment.
   - C.1.1 *Project option assessment should include quantitative (monetised) cost-benefit analysis at all stages of the project life cycle, taking account of capex, repair (reinstatement, replacement) costs, operation costs, maintenance costs, residual value, revenue from services provided, and other costs and benefits. Cost-benefit analysis should include the monetised assessment of the project's effects, including through the use of social cost-benefit analysis). All project costs and benefits should be divided into categories.*
   - C.1.2 *Cost-benefit analysis should consider the sensitivity of costs and benefits to external factors.*
   - C.1.3 *Cost-benefit analysis includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*
2. Analyse project cost-effectiveness as part of project option assessment.
   - C.2.1 *Project option assessment should include cost-effectiveness analysis at all stages of the project life cycle, including in respect of the project's effects, through the use of cost-effectiveness analysis and social cost-effectiveness analysis (SCEA).*
   - C.2.2 *Cost-effectiveness analysis should consider the sensitivity of costs to external factors.*

(D) Analyse and substantiate the project's funding as part of project option assessment.

- D.1 *Project option assessment should include quantitative analysis in relation to the project's funding, including the demand for relevant infrastructural services, anticipated revenue from infrastructural services provided, sources and mechanisms for recovering investments, and the availability and scope of public guarantees provided by the public partner at all stages of the project life cycle.*
- D.2 *Analysing the project's funding should include financial metrics, such as the project's simple payback period, discounted payback period, internal rate of return, net present value etc.*
- D.3 *Analysing the project's funding should consider their sensitivity to external factors.*
- D.4 *Analysing the project's funding includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(E) Analyse and substantiate the project's financing as part of project option assessment.

- E.1 *Project option assessment should include analysing the project's financing, including the amount, structure and sources of financing, and the project's appeal for investors and/or financiers.*
- E.2 *Analysing the project's financing should include metrics on financial project quality, such as the project's effective interest rate, debt service coverage ratio etc.*
- E.3 *Analysing the project's financing should consider its sensitivity to external factors.*
- E.4 *Analysing the project's financing includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(F) Analyse and substantiate the project's legal structure as part of project option assessment.

- F.1 *Project option assessment should include analysing the project's legal structure, such as the contract type, implementation schedule, distribution of responsibilities, risk allocation at all stages of the project life cycle, dispute resolution etc.*
- F.2 *Analysing the project's legal structure includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(G) Decide on project implementation and define project characteristics, using assessed project options.

- G.1 *Deciding on project implementation and defining project characteristics should be based on assessed project options. The project team should provide relevant evidence.*

(H) Define and incorporate relevant goals and targets in relation to project costs and benefits.

- H.1 *Relevant goals and targets in relation to project costs and benefits are defined and subsequently incorporated into project planning documents.*

(I) Substantiate assessed project options by calculating the indicators of quality of project structuring specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment.

- I.1 *Assessed project options should be substantiated by calculating the indicators of quality of project structuring specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment sourced from international financial institutions and development institutions.*

(J) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing project options.

J.1 Assessing project options should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues.

(K) Organise independent verification on assessed project options.

K.1 The findings of project option assessment should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover all relevant data, including background information and assessment findings, and the principles of data handling, including all assumptions, methods and models.

K.2 Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.

(L) Provide unrestricted access to information about assessed project options and to associated reports.

L.1 The findings of project option assessment, the decision on project implementation, economic feasibility, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and the minutes of working meetings and other relevant information are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Project option assessment methodology.
- Findings of project option assessment.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B) — (F)

- Findings of project option assessment.

(G)

- Decision on project implementation.
- Economic feasibility.

(H) Project planning documents.

(I) Calculated indicators of quality of project structuring specified in generally accepted international standards and instruments of assessment.

(J)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(K) Report on independent verification on assessed project options.

(L) Online platforms used to publish the findings of project option assessment, the decision on project implementation, economic feasibility, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and other relevant information.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 2** "Raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost"

Related Credits

- **EG-3** Project viability and feasibility

150 EG-5 Project risk and benefits management

15 Level 1
A

Risk-benefit analysis

27 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Preparation of the plans and management mechanisms

42 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and outcome evaluation

66 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

Level 5
N/A

A
The project team identifies the project's potential effects, both negative (**risks**) and positive (**benefits**).

Potential risks and benefits are analysed both in relation to project participants and in relation to all project stakeholders.

B A special task force is formed and responsible officers are appointed to manage risks and benefits.

C The task force formulates a risk and benefits management plan.

D The task force formulates a change management plan.

E
The task force responsible for risk and benefits management is evaluated on a regular basis.

AND (if the task force is evaluated)

The risk and benefits management plan and the change management plan are updated based on the findings of the evaluation.

F The task force works to minimise risks and achieve benefits in the project.

G The task force's activities involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.

H Independent verification is conducted on the task force's activities.

I Unrestricted access is provided to the plans, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

Description

Most infrastructure projects are carried out on a long-term basis, which necessitates organising a sophisticated planning process and managing of a wide range of risks and benefits in order to successfully implement the project and ensure its positive contribution to socio-economic development and improved quality of life.

It is important to ensure an equitable sharing of risks and benefits among different project participants and project stakeholders, since benefits achieved by one project party may be associated with risks incurred by the others.

With the aim of making the project resilient to changes in the external environment, it is necessary to formulate a change management plan that covers all aspects of the project.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The project team assesses potential risks and benefits associated with the project, including in relation to project participants and project stakeholders. Scores awarded for this level of achievement are dependent on the analysed stages of the project life cycle, types of risks and benefits, methods and other aspects of analysis.

Level 2: A special task force is formed to manage risks and benefits and separately manage changes, and plans are formulated to cover all stages of the project life cycle.

Level 3: The task force introduces the plans and monitors plan implementation, with the task force's activities evaluated on a regular basis. The plans are regularly updated, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Risk and benefits management produces actual positive results. Scores awarded for this level of achievement do not require that all the requirements should be met in full.

Level 4: The task force's activities can involve government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders. The high quality of risk and benefits management is confirmed by independent verification.

Assessment Elements

(A)

1. The project team identifies the project's potential effects, both negative (*risks*), and positive (*benefits*).

   A.1.1 *Analysing the project's effects should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

   A.1.2 *Analysing the project's effects covers the greatest possible number of aspects, including socio-economic, financial, legal, environmental, climatic, technical etc. The final list of necessary aspects is made in consultation with the Certifier, depending on the particularities of the project.*

   A.1.3 *Analysing the project's effects should cover both direct and indirect effects of project implementation.*

   A.1.4 *Analysing the project's effects employs qualitative and quantitative assessment methods, such as risk matrices, and uses stochastic modelling methods, including Monte Carlo simulations etc.*

2. Potential risks and benefits are analysed both in relation to project participants and in relation to all project stakeholders.

   A.2.1 *Analysis covers both external factors affecting project participants and/or project stakeholders and internal factors caused by project participants and/or project stakeholders. Project participants are the parties to the project agreement, the members of the special purpose entity (SPE) and other organisations contractually bound to carry out the project, including financiers, consultancies, contractors and other counterparties throughout the supply chain. Project stakeholders are persons (groups of persons) and entities that are involved in the project, may affect any aspects of the project, and are affected or consider themselves to be affected by any effects of project implementation.*

(B) A special task force is formed and responsible officers are appointed to manage risks and benefits.

B.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to managing the project's effects.*

B.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.*

B.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to risk and benefits management should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(C) The task force formulates a risk and benefits management plan.

C.1 *The task force should formulate a risk and benefits management plan. The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

C.2 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to risk and benefits management. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative. Each KPI should be assigned to the relevant project participants and/or project stakeholders.*

C.3 *The plan should be provided with the necessary measures, mechanisms and instruments to manage risks and benefits and attain KPIs. The plan should be provided with the necessary measures, mechanisms*

and instruments to minimise risks. In relation to benefits, the plan should contain information about how and when the project is to bring benefits and about the necessary mechanisms to measure such benefits.

C.4 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments to attain KPIs are cost effective, for example through the use of cost-effectiveness analysis.*

C.5 *The selection of KPIs and measures, mechanisms and instruments to attain KPIs should be based on an equitable distribution of risks and benefits among project participants and project stakeholders. This is achieved by both quantitative assessment (for example, Pareto and Kaldor-Hicks efficiency analysis, externality modelling etc) and discussion. Discussion implies a broad consensus with project stakeholders about possible alternatives in the project.*

(D) The task force formulates a change management plan.

D.1 *In order to ensure that the risk and benefits management plan is carried out through relevant organisational and managerial changes, the project team should formulate a change management plan. The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

D.2 *The change management plan should be provided with the necessary measures, mechanisms and instruments to make organisational and managerial changes related to the project implementation strategy, project structure, quality and quantity of infrastructural services provided, technical and technological solutions, human resources and corporate culture.*

1. The task force responsible for risk and benefits management is evaluated on a regular basis.

D.1.1 *The task force is evaluated as to its work on introducing, monitoring and supervising the risk and benefits management plan and the change management plan and other activities related to risk and benefits management.*

D.1.2 *The task force is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the task force's activities and on measures to attain the KPIs of the plans. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

AND (if the task force is evaluated)

2. The risk and benefits management plan and the change management plan are updated based on the findings of the evaluation.

D.2.1 *The evaluation of the task force should include explanation whether or not the risk and benefits management plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

D.2.2 *The evaluation of the task force should include explanation whether or not the change management plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(E) The task force works to minimise risks and achieve benefits in the project.

E.1 *The project team should provide*

evidence that the task force contributes to minimising risks and achieving benefits in accordance with the plans, including by implementing measures, mechanisms and instruments and attaining KPIs.

(F) The task force's activities involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.

- F.1 *All or some of the task force's meetings are open to project stakeholders. Project stakeholders are entitled to make enquiries to task force members, put forward proposals, make remarks and receive replies and comments.*
- F.2 *The task force's activities regularly involve government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant agenda items of the task force's meetings.*

(G) Independent verification is conducted on the task force's activities.

- G.1 *The organisational and managerial mechanisms for risk and benefits management introduced by the task force, along with the control and monitoring mechanisms, should be externally audited by independent experts.*
- G.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(H) Unrestricted access is provided to the plans, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

- H.1 *The risk and benefits management plan, the change management plan, plan implementation reports, along with the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of the task force's meetings and other relevant information, are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team, or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

Evidence Guidance

(A) Findings of analysing the project's effects.

(B) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(C) Risk and benefits management plan. Findings of project cost-effectiveness analysis.

(D) Change management plan.

(E) Report on the task force's activities. Report on risk and benefits management plan implementation. Report on change management plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(F) Report on the task force's activities. Report on risk and benefits management plan implementation. Report on change management plan implementation.

(G)

- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H) Report on independent verification on the task force's activities.

(I) Online platforms used to publish the risk and benefits management plan, the change management plan, plan implementation

reports, reports on the task force's activities and other relevant information.

Relevant QII Principles

- **All principles**

Related Credits

- **EG-1** Implementation of the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the Sustainable Development Goals
- **EG-2** Alignment with strategic planning priorities
- **EG-3** Project viability and feasibility

115 EG-6 Internal communications and human resource management

15 Level 1
A + B

Analysis of goals, requirements and resources

24 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Preparation of the plans

36 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation

40 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H

Effectiveness of communications and engagement

Level 5
N/A

A Define goals and organisational methods of internal communications in the project.

B Identify required human resources and assess whether current employees meet identified workforce requirements.

C Formulate an internal communications plan.

D Formulate a human resource development plan.

E Carry out the internal communications plan.

F Carry out the human resource development plan.

G Give consideration to opinions and proposals of employees in the project.

H Ensure that the project team evaluates employee satisfaction with how employees are informed about the project and how their opinions and proposals are given consideration in the project.

Description

Infrastructure projects are carried out on a long-term basis, which necessitates setting up a sophisticated system for managing the project team's human resources and competencies at all stages of the project life cycle.

An internal communications plan makes it possible to formalise internal communications management processes and ensure that information is efficiently shared and that opinions and proposals of employees are given consideration in the project.

A human resource development plan makes it possible to formalise human resource management processes and ensure that the project is sufficiently and adequately supplied with competencies and highly qualified employees.

The plan also ensures that competencies and employee performance are improved on an ongoing basis and that opinions and proposals of employees are taken into account and used to ensure compliance with the QII Principles and SDGs.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Goals and organisational methods of internal communications are substantiated; work is done on assessing whether current employees meet the project's labour requirements.

Level 2: The project is provided with plans to manage human resources and internal communications.

Level 3: The plans to manage human resources and internal communications are integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of internal communications and the effectiveness of how opinions and proposals of employees are given consideration in project decision-making are assured and confirmed by employee satisfaction surveys.

Assessment Elements

(A) Define goals and organisational methods of internal communications in the project.

A.1 *The project team should define the goals and objectives internal communications and their particularities determined by the project.*

A.2 *The project team should describe the types, formats, channels, topics, key actors and cycles of internal communications necessary for the project.*

(B) Identify required human resources and assess whether current employees meet identified workforce requirements.

B.1 *The project team should identify required human resources, specifying the number of employees and their distribution by competency, skill and division (organisation), including single-skilled professionals, in order to hire them to carry out the project and perform specific functions at different stages of the project life cycle (all of the project's stages should be covered), as well as achieving the project's current and long-term goals.*

B.2 *The project team should assess current human resources, identifying the number of employees and their distribution by competency, skill and division.*

B.3 *The project team should assess whether current employees meet the project's workforce requirements, identifying unfulfilled requirements for specific competencies.*

B.4 *The findings of the assessment are to be updated at least once every six months.*

(C) Formulate an internal communications plan.

C.1 *The plan should contain organisational and managerial mechanisms to ensure that:*

- *project team members communicate with each other;*
- *project team members communicate with other employees;*
- *practical professional experience, best practices and innovations are shared by employees, divisions and companies involved in the project;*
- *reasonable and optimum project decisions are taken and subsequently implemented in an effective manner through active communication between experts from different professional areas, divisions or companies involved in the project (the customer's representatives, project team members and professionals engaged at different stages of the project life cycle);*
- *employees are systematically informed about progress in and future plans for carrying out the project and about decisions taken in the project.*

C.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

(D) Formulate a human resource development plan.

D.1 *The plan is a document designed to adequately supply the infrastructure project with required human resources to achieve goals at all stages of the project life cycle.*
The plan should include:

- *job descriptions containing a list of functions and required competencies;*
- *employee targets consistent with agreed qualifications, including a description of a project team member's individual contribution*

towards the project's goals;

- *assessed availability of necessary competencies and future workforce requirements (for example, based on research studies on the development of technology and innovation creating a shortage of skilled workforce);*
- *strategies and measures to ease a shortage of competencies (recruitment, traineeships, in-house training, skills improvement and retraining);*
- *measures to improve employee performance, including measures implemented jointly with strategic partners (organising cooperation with sectoral and professional communities);*
- *mechanisms for helping new employees to adapt to the working environment;*
- *mechanisms and deadlines for monitoring plan implementation.*

(E) Carry out the internal communications plan.

E.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the organisational and managerial mechanisms contained in the internal communications plan are implemented, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent.*

(F) Carry out the human resource development plan.

F.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the targets and measures contained in the human resource development plan are monitored and accomplished, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the findings of monitoring the targets and accomplished measures.*

(G) Give consideration to opinions and proposals of employees in the project.

G.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the project is implemented with due consideration to opinions and proposals of employees and provide evidence that such opinions and proposals are reflected in the project team's managerial decisions or rejected with a sufficient reason for refusal.*

G.2 *Evidence should contain opinions and proposals of employees and show how and to what extent they are given consideration in project decision-making, for example in the form of minutes of meetings, documented decisions and other documents and in the form of case studies.*

(H) Ensure that the project team evaluates employee satisfaction with how employees are informed about the project and how their opinions and proposals are given consideration in the project.

H.1 *The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate employee satisfaction with how employees are informed about the project and how their opinions and proposals are given consideration in the project. The project team should provide the results of employee satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.*

Evidence Guidance

(A) Internal communications concept.

(B)

- Identified required human resources.
- Assessed current human resources.
- Findings of assessing whether current employees meet the project's workforce requirements.

(C) Internal communications plan.

(D) Human resource development plan.

(E) Report on the implementation of the internal communications plan.

(F) Report on the implementation of the human resource development plan.

(G) Minutes of meetings, documented decisions and other documents. Case studies.

(H) Employee satisfaction survey reports. Case studies.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"
- **Principle 6** "Strengthening infrastructure governance."

Related Credits

- **EG-7** Project stakeholder engagement
- **QL-1** Occupational health, safety and wellbeing

150 EG-7 Project stakeholder engagement

18 Level 1
A + B

Active engagement

30 Level 2
A + B + C

Systematic engagement

42 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E

Involvement and transparency

60 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H

Quality of engagement

Level 5
N/A

A Identify project stakeholders.

Analyse project stakeholders' interests associated with the project and the project's issues significant for project stakeholders.

B Ensure that the project team and project stakeholders communicate through offline channels and at least one online channel.

B Ensure that the project team and project stakeholders communicate through offline channels and two or more online channels.

C Formulate a project stakeholder engagement strategy.

D Give consideration to opinions and proposals of project stakeholders in project decision-making.

E Ensure that the project team provides transparent and accessible channels of communication with project stakeholders.

F Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with how channels of communication operate and how project stakeholders are informed about the project.

G Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making.

H Ensure that the project team and project stakeholder communicate in accordance with the GRI Standards.

Description

Infrastructure projects normally have a substantial impact on the socio-economic environment, ecology, climate, and other spheres. Project participants, therefore, find it necessary to coordinate the project's goals and implementation methods with project stakeholders.

Involving project stakeholders in managerial decision-making under the project is for building the project's good reputation, maintaining a favourable external environment for project implementation, and mitigating social risks.

Broad and effective communication with external target audiences helps to create a positive attitude towards the project and neutralise a negative background around the project by responding to comments and giving due consideration to opinions and proposals of project stakeholders.

Communication with project stakeholders helps the project to bring the greatest benefits and minimise negative consequences.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Project stakeholders, their interests and the most important project-related issues are identified. Project stakeholder engagement uses offline and online communication channels, taking account of information about project stakeholders, their interests and the project's issues significant for them.

Level 2: A project stakeholder engagement strategy is in place. Project stakeholder engagement under the strategy uses offline and online communication channels. In respect of accessible offline and online communication channels, this level of achievement requires a larger number of online channels (two or more).

Level 3: The project team and project stakeholders communicate efficiently and transparently, and opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given due consideration in project decision-making.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of communication between the project team and project stakeholders and the effectiveness of how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making are confirmed by project stakeholder satisfaction surveys.

Assessment Elements

(A)

1. Identify project stakeholders.

A.1.1 *Project stakeholders are persons (groups of persons) and entities that are involved in the project, may affect any aspects of the project, and are affected or consider themselves to be affected by any effects of project implementation.*
The project team should make a list of project stakeholders, specifying their key characteristics (socio-demographic, economic, organisational, structural), the particularities of internal communication and such other information as determined by the project.

A.1.2 *The project team should rank project stakeholders by degree of involvement in the project and by ability to affect project implementation.*

2. Analyse project stakeholders' interests associated with the project and the project's issues significant for project stakeholders.

A.2.1 *The project team should identify and analyse project stakeholders' interests associated with the project.*

A.2.2 *With due consideration to the project's effects and project stakeholders' interests, the project team should subsequently identify project-related issues that are of the greatest significance for project stakeholders.*

(B) Ensure that the project team and project stakeholders communicate through sufficient channels:

- **for Level 1** – Ensure that the project team and project stakeholders communicate through offline channels and at least one online channel.
- **for Levels 2-4** – Ensure that the project team and project stakeholders communicate through offline channels and two or more online channels.

B.1 *The project team and project stakeholders communicate through offline and online channels.*

B.2 *The project team should provide evidence that offline and online communication channels are in place for the project team and project stakeholders.*
Offline communication channels are communication by post and telephone, announcements in print media, in-person meetings and channels other than digital communication.
Online communication channels are communication by electronic mail, the project's official accounts on social networks, instant messaging systems, feedback forms on the project's official website, conference calls, video conferences and other channels inseparably associated with digital technology.

(C) Formulate a project stakeholder engagement strategy.

C.1 *The strategy should include:*

- *goals of communication and a list of issues that are significant for project stakeholders and planned for discussion by the project team and project stakeholders;*
- *information about accessible offline and online channels*

of communication between the project team and project stakeholders;
- *information about the frequency of joint meetings held to discuss issues that are significant for project stakeholders;*
- *particularities of communication with each project stakeholder on the principles of non-discrimination;*
- *distribution of responsibilities of project team members in relation to communication with project stakeholders (project team executives and managers, public relations officers);*
- *procedure and methods for handling opinions and proposals of project stakeholders and giving them consideration in the project;*
- *forms of project stakeholder engagement reports, registration and handling of opinions and proposals of project stakeholders;*
- *forms of reports on consideration given to opinions and proposals of project stakeholders in decision-making at different stages of the project life cycle;*
- *procedure for evaluating project stakeholder satisfaction with how channels of communication operate and how project stakeholders are informed about the project;*
- *procedure for evaluating project stakeholder satisfaction with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making.*

C.2 *The strategy should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

(D) Give consideration to opinions and proposals of project stakeholders in project decision-making.

D.1 *The project team should provide evidence that project decision-making gives due consideration to opinions and proposals of project stakeholders. Evidence should contain opinions and proposals of project stakeholders and show how and to what extent they are given consideration in project decision-making or that such opinions and proposals are rejected with a sufficient reason for refusal.*

D.2 *The project team should prove that the project's issues that are the most significant for project stakeholders are jointly discussed by project team members and project stakeholders' representatives entitled to vote/exercise a casting vote/use a veto at such meetings. The project team should provide relevant evidence, for example in the form of minutes of meetings, documented decisions and other documents and in the form of case studies.*

(E) Ensure that the project team provides transparent and accessible channels of communication with project stakeholders.

E.1 *Project stakeholders should be informed about accessible channels of communication.*

E.2 *Channels of communication should be accessible to the general public and third parties.*

E.3 *Access to channels of communication should convenient for users, and access to online channels should not require any special digital skills or high digital literacy.*

(F) Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with how channels of communication operate and how project stakeholders are informed about the project.

F.1 *The project team should regularly (at*

least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with how offline and online communication channels operate and how project stakeholders are informed about the project. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.

(G) Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making.

G.1 The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.

(H) Ensure that the project team and project stakeholder communicate in accordance with the GRI Standards.

H.1 It is necessary to organise independent verification on whether reports on communication between the project team and project stakeholders are compliant with the GRI Standards.

AND (both requirements should be fulfilled)

H.2 Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- List of project stakeholders.
- Findings of analysing project stakeholders' interests associated with the project and the project's issues significant for project stakeholders.

(B) Evidence that offline and online communication channels are in place.

(C) Project stakeholder engagement strategy.

(D) Minutes of meetings, documented decisions and other documents. Case studies.

(E)

- Evidence that project stakeholders are informed about accessible channels of communication.
- Evidence that channels of communication should be accessible to the general public and third parties.
- Evidence that channels of communication are convenient for users.

(F) Project stakeholder satisfaction survey reports. Case studies.

(G) Project stakeholder satisfaction survey reports. Case studies.

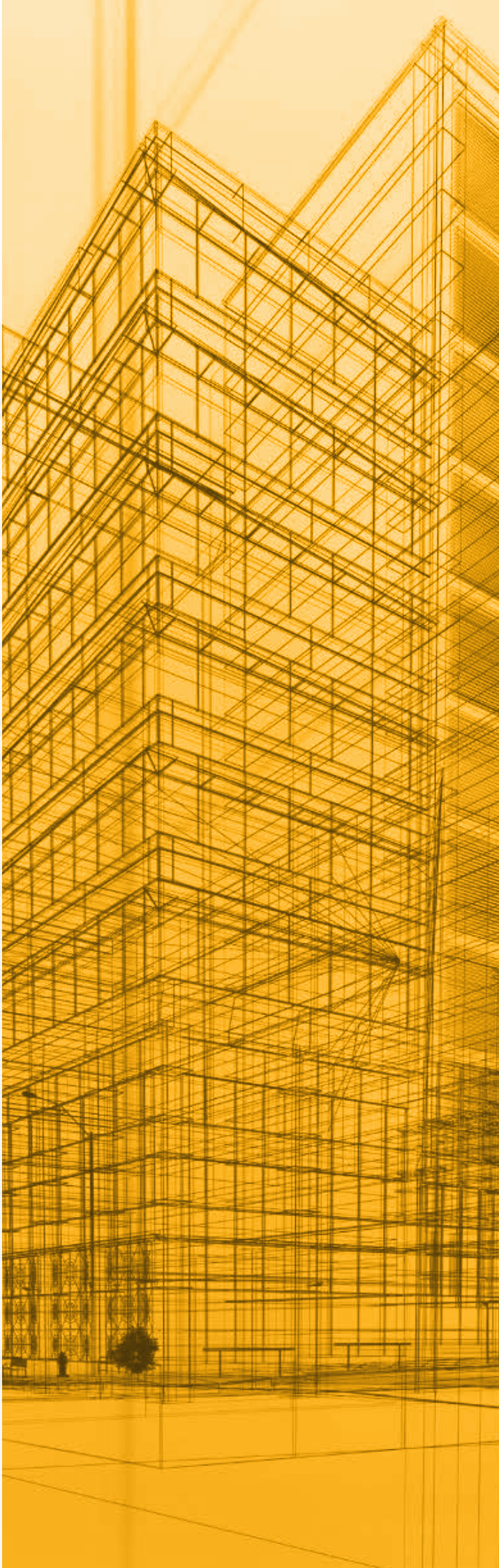
(H) Report on independent verification on whether reports on communication between the project team and project stakeholders are compliant with the GRI Standards.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"
- **Principle 6** "Strengthening infrastructure governance "

Related Credits

- **EG-6** Internal communications and human resource management



The infrastructure should be comfortable and safe for people and contribute to a qualitative improvement in the standard of living of the population. Quality of Life sets the basic requirements for the characteristics of the infrastructure facility, construction work and working conditions. Quality of Life assesses the extent to which the implementation of the project contributes to the creation of new jobs, ensuring mobility and access, preserving the integrity of the architectural and artistic appearance of the territory and preserving cultural heritage sites. Individual requirements concern the safety of disposal of infrastructure facilities.

QL-1 Occupational health, safety and wellbeing

QL-2 Minimising negative impact of construction

QL-3 Local job creation and involvement of local companies

QL-4 Asset quality for users

QL-5 Mobility and access

QL-6 Landscape and local character integrity

QL-7 Protection of cultural heritage

QL-8 Safety of asset decommissioning

Bonus points

Credit List

100 | QL-1 Occupational health, safety and wellbeing

9 Level 1
A + B + C

Analysis of aspects and identification of requirements

14 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Preparation of the plan

32 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and updating

45 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

Level 5
N/A

- A Analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.
- B Identify regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.
- C Assess whether occupational health, safety and wellbeing meet regulatory requirements and governance standards.
- D Formulate an occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.
- E Carry out the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.
- F Evaluate progress in carrying out the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan on a regular basis.

  AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

  Update the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan based on the findings of the evaluation.
- G Ensure that the project team evaluates employee satisfaction with occupational health, safety and wellbeing.
- H Occupational health, safety and wellbeing are assured and confirmed by external evaluations.
- I Organise independent verification on the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan and on the outcomes of the plan.
- J Provide unrestricted access to the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

Описание критерия

Infrastructure projects are carried out on a long-term basis, which necessitates ensuring occupational health, safety and wellbeing that help to improve workforce productivity, preserve the life, health and working capacity of employees and create a favourable environment within the organizations involved in the project.

Whether the project is successful depends on efficiently using equipment and tools, preserving the health of employees, and maintaining high principles and standards of business ethics that must be met by all executives and employees.

The occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan should be is aimed at ensuring high-quality and socially oriented labour management that safeguards the interests of employees to the greatest extent in accordance with leading world standards and legal requirements.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing are analysed; regulatory requirements and governance standards for the aspects are identified; work is done on assessing whether occupational health, safety and wellbeing meet regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project is provided with a occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.

Level 3: The occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of occupational health, safety and wellbeing are assured and confirmed by employee satisfaction surveys and external independent verification.

Assessment Elements

(A) Analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.

A.1 *The project team should identify, analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.*

A.2 *The analysis should include but not be limited to the following aspects:*

- *Ensuring occupational safety in accordance with world's leading international standards and legal requirements; preventing and avoiding accidents, including motor vehicle accidents and fires; providing briefings and training sessions for employees on how to comply with safety rules, handle equipment, materials and technologies and organise their work, implementing a monitoring system for employees' compliance with safety rules; promoting a conscious and responsible attitude towards occupational health, safety and wellbeing among employees; developing employees' competencies related to occupational health, safety and wellbeing; including functions and competencies related to occupational health, safety and wellbeing in job descriptions; monitoring compliance with the requirements applicable to occupational health, safety and wellbeing; testing and certifying employees' knowledge of occupational health, safety and wellbeing; using safe equipment, materials and technologies at work; taking preventive and protective measures related to occupational health, safety and wellbeing; supplying employees with the necessary protective equipment.*
- *Maintaining the life and health of employees—preventing and avoiding occupational fatalities and injuries; preventing occupational diseases; preventing and avoiding occupational disabilities caused by occupational injuries and diseases; providing employees with access to professional psychological services.*
- *Ensuring physical comfort in the workplace—maintaining an acceptable temperature and climate inside; ensuring comfortable working conditions outside; supplying employees with comfortable and safe equipment and clothing; providing easy-to-use and high-quality materials, equipment and technologies for work; setting up comfortable workplaces.*
- *Ensuring comfortable conditions of employment—preventing excessive workloads; maintaining a balance of work and rest; distribute workloads with due regard to the health of employees; providing regular holidays and non-working days; preventing long continuous work in excess of the requirements; paying fair compensation for overtime work.*
- *Providing social and medical support for employees—ensuring first aid; providing employees with life and health insurance; taking out medical insurance;*

providing timely temporary disability compensation, maternity benefits and childcare benefits; providing fair (including taking into account the project's location, the project's industry, and competencies profile and qualifications of employees) and timely payment; providing benefits and compensation for work in harmful and hazardous conditions.

- *Ensuring respect for the employees' personality, freedom and dignity of employees—preventing and avoiding physical and psychological violence (for example, coercion, harassment, bullying, persecution, blackmail etc), including due to abuse of authority or any dependence.*
- *Maintaining integrity and transparency in relationships within the organisation—preventing and avoiding practices of misleading employees, manipulating them, inducing them to violate the company's internal regulations; preventing practices of causing employees to perform any functions that are not specified in employment contracts or job descriptions.*
- *Ensuring fairness and equality in relationships within the organization—interacting with and treating employees fairly and equally; preventing and avoiding any discrimination against employees; providing equal opportunities for all employees regardless of gender, age, marital status, citizenship, race, ethnicity, religion, language, beliefs, political views and preferences, occupation, physical condition or otherwise.*
- *Protecting the interests of vulnerable categories of employees, including people with disabilities, people with limited mobility and ethnic minorities.*
- *Protecting the interests of economically disadvantaged employees, including women, employees under civil contracts, seasonal employees, part-time employees and low-paid employees earning less than the average pay in the project impacted area.*

A.3 *Analysing the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing covers and substantiates the project's unique aspects with due consideration to the particularities of the project, including potentially hazardous and harmful factors, especially those that may threaten the life and health of employees, such as:*

- *physical (increased vibration, noise, electromagnetic radiation, ultrasound, light intensity, electric fields, radiation etc);*
- *chemical (toxic, irritant, sensitising, carcinogenic, mutagenic, fertility-affecting substances etc);*
- *biological (pathogenic microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi etc);*
- *psychophysiological (excessive physical, neuropsychic loads etc).*
- *industry-specific risks and other hazards.*

A.4 *Analysing the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

A.5 *Analysing the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(B) Identify regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.

B.1 *Regulatory requirements set forth in the laws in force in the project's location should be identified for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.*

B.2 *Generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices should be identified for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.*

B.3 *Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.4 *Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing takes into account the particularities of the project, including industrial, territorial, physiographic, technical, financial, legal and other factors.*

B.5 *Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(C) Assess whether occupational health, safety and wellbeing meet regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C.1 *It is necessary to assess how the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.*

C.2 *The assessment should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and with generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

C.3 *The assessment should be made by project team members responsible for risk management, with the involvement of an independent specialised expert organisation.*

C.4 *If necessary and based on the findings of the assessment, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(D) Formulate an occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.

D.1 *The project team should formulate a occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.*

D.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

D.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments to ensure compliance with the requirements applicable to the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.*

D.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

D.5 *The plan should include introducing a project accident prevention policy (for example, a Zero Accidents Culture).*

(E) Carry out the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.

E.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its*

equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan on a regular basis.

   F.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

   AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. *Update the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan based on the findings of the evaluation.*

   F.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(G) Ensure that the project team evaluates employee satisfaction with occupational health, safety and wellbeing.

G.1 *The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate employee satisfaction with how occupational health, safety and wellbeing are ensured. The project team should provide the results of employee satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.*

(H) Occupational health, safety and wellbeing are assured and confirmed by external evaluations.

H.1 *The project team should provide evidence that external evaluations are conducted in relation to occupational health, safety and wellbeing or their specific aspects. For example, such evaluations include as follows:*

- *evaluations from industry associations and other associations of market participants;*
- *evaluations from expert and public institutions;*
- *evaluations from employee associations, including trade unions;*
- *evaluations from employer associations, employment agencies and recruitment companies;*
- *evaluations and feedback from users of online platforms and social networks;*
- *no complaints (lawsuits, claims) from employees;*
- *independent employment certification.*

AND (both requirements should be fulfilled)

H.2 *Overall, external evaluations of occupational health, safety and wellbeing are positive.*

(I) Organise independent verification on the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

I.1 *The occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited*

by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.

I.2 Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.

(J) Provide unrestricted access to the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J.1 The occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

Evidence Guidance

(A) Findings of analysing the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.
(B) List of regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of occupational health, safety and wellbeing.
(C) Findings of assessing whether occupational health, safety and wellbeing meet regulatory requirements and governance standards.
(D) Occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.
(E) Report on the implementation of the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.
(F) Report on the implementation of the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.
(G) Employee satisfaction survey reports. Case studies.
(H) Documentary evidence of external evaluations in relation to occupational health, safety and wellbeing.
(I)

- Report on independent verification on the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan.

(J) Online platforms used to publish the occupational health, safety and wellbeing plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"

Related Credits

- **EG-6** Internal communications and human resource management

166 QL-2 Minimising negative impact of construction

15 Level 1
A + B + C

Analysis of aspects and identification of requirements

40 Level 2
A + B + C + D + E

Planning and involvement of project stakeholders

45 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F + G

Plan implementation and updating

66 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

Level 5
N/A

A Analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

B Identify regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

C Assess whether minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

D Formulate a plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

E Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

F Carry out the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

G Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment based on the findings of the evaluation.

H Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

I Organise independent verification on the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment and on the outcomes of the plan.

J Provide unrestricted access to the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

Description

Infrastructure projects involve interfering in the environment and may, under certain circumstances, have hazardous effects on people and the environment. The project team should ensure that construction is safe for people and the environment by organising design and construction in such a way as to ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements and governance standards aimed at creating a safe living environment for human life and minimising negative impact on the environment.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment are analysed and substantiated; regulatory requirements and governance standards for the aspects are identified; work is done on assessing whether minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project is provided with a plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment. Project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are involved in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

Level 3: The plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment are assured and confirmed by project stakeholder satisfaction surveys and external independent verification.

Assessment Elements

(A) Analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

A.1 *The project team should identify, analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.*

A.2 *The analysis should include but not be limited to the following aspects:*

- *Using safe and environmentally friendly technologies, materials and equipment that do not cause harm to the life and health of people or the environment.*
- *Ensuring safe access to the construction site—controlling access to the construction site; preventing unauthorised access; setting up fences around the construction site; ensuring the security of the construction site and protecting the asset from damage; maintaining order in the area adjacent to the construction site.*
- *Preventing natural, industrial or anthropogenic accidents that threaten the life of people (including transport accidents; fires; explosions; the collapse of buildings and structures; chemical, energy and other types of accidents) by using properly functioning equipment, mechanisms, tools and safety devices for their intended purpose.*
- *Complying with noise emissions requirements—ensuring that noise meets regulatory requirements and standards; using noiseless mechanisms (electrically actuated); preventing work in the night-time, on non-working days and on public holidays in accordance with laws; using noisy mechanisms at the greatest distance from residential buildings; preventing the use of sound reinforcement equipment; preventing the operation of equipment with noise emission substantially exceeding the permissible levels; limiting the speed of lorries at the construction site.*
- *Complying with vibration emission requirements—ensuring that vibration meets regulatory requirements and standards; preventing work in the night-time, on non-working days and on public holidays in accordance with laws; reducing permissible vibration by using dynamic vibration dampers, vibration insulation and vibration damping methods.*
- *Complying with light emission requirements—ensuring that light meets regulatory requirements and standards; preventing work in the night-time, on non-working days and on public holidays in accordance with laws; using light screens.*
- *Conserving and protecting the environment and climate—introducing technical and technological solutions for environmental protection in accordance with regulatory requirements and standards in order to ensure air quality, ensure the sustainable use of energy, water, land and other natural resources, prevent climate change, protect*

plants and animals, conserve biodiversity, protect natural ecosystems, organise safe waste management, and minimise the use of hazardous materials and technologies.

- *Minimizing the negative social and economic impacts of land acquisition or land use restrictions by providing compensation for lost property and ensuring that resettlement measures are accompanied by appropriate disclosures, consultations and stakeholder engagement.*
- *Minimising resettlement or land acquisition for a construction site and construction work, including with negative effects on the usual way of life of small and indigenous peoples; preventing forced displacement and land acquisition; providing fair compensation if it is impossible to avoid any displacement or land acquisition.*

A.3 *Analysing the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment covers and substantiates the project's unique aspects with due consideration to the particularities of the project, including technical, technological and other characteristics.*

A.4 *Analysing the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(B) Identify regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

B.1 *Regulatory requirements set forth in the laws in force in the project's location should be identified for the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.*

B.2 *Generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices should be identified for the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment. Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment takes into account the particularities of the project, including industrial, territorial, physiographic, technical, financial, legal and other factors.*

B.3 *Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(C) Assess whether minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C.1 *It is necessary to assess how the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.*

C.2 *The assessment should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

C.3 *The assessment should be made by*

project team members responsible for risk management, with the involvement of a an independent specialized expert organisation.

C.4 *If necessary and based on the findings of the assessment, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(D) Formulate a plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

D.1 *The project team should formulate a plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.*

D.2 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments to ensure compliance with the requirements applicable to the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment and introduce the relevant technical and technological solutions.*

D.3 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(E) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

E.1 *Analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues.*

(F) Carry out the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

F.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments, including their technical and technological solutions, are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(G)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment on a regular basis.

G.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports*

on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments, including their technical and technological solutions, and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment based on the findings of the evaluation.

G.2.1 The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.

(H) Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

H.1 The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.

(I) Organise independent verification on the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment and on the outcomes of the plan.

I.1 The plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.

I.2 Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.

(J) Provide unrestricted access to the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J.1 The plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

Evidence Guidance

(A) Findings of analysing the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

(B) List of regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

(C) Findings of assessing whether minimising negative impact of construction on people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

(D) Plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

(E)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(F) Report on the implementation of the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

(G) Report on the implementation of the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H) Project stakeholder satisfaction survey report. Case studies.

(I)

- Report on independent verification on the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment.

(J) Online platforms used to publish the plan to minimise the negative impact of construction on people and the environment, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 4** "Building resilience against natural disasters and other risksм"
- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"

Related Credits

- **QL-1** Occupational health, safety and wellbeing
- **QL-4** Asset quality for users
- **QL-8** Safety of asset decommissioning

85 QL-3 Local job creation and involvement of local companies

15 Level 1 A + B + C Share of local jobs: 20% to 39.9% AND Share of local companies: 20% to 39.9%	A Assess the number of local jobs created by the project and the number of local companies involved in the project.			
16 Level 2 A + B + C Share of local jobs: 40% to 59.9% AND Share of local companies: 40% to 59.9%	B Share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project: 20% to 39.9%.	B Share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project: 40% to 59.9%.		
22 Level 3 A + B + C Share of local jobs: 60% to 79.9% AND Share of local companies: 60% to 79.9%	C Share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project: 20% to 39.9%.	C Share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project: 40% to 59.9%.	B Share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project: 60% to 79.9%.	
32 Level 4 A + B + C Share of local jobs: 80% and above AND Share of local companies: 80% and above			C Share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project: 60% to 79.9%.	B Share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project: 80% and above. C Share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project: 80% and above.
Level 5 N/A				

Description

The project should produce direct positive effects for local people and businesses, which is expressed primarily in creating local jobs and involving local companies in the project.

Creating local jobs both at the stage of asset construction and at the stage of asset operation widens the choice of employment options in terms of functions, transport accessibility and other factors, allows local residents to better and more effectively fulfil their potential, and helps to increase their income and quality of life.

At the level of the local economy, creating local jobs contributes to an increase in budget revenues, promotes competition and makes the region more attractive to investors. Involving local companies boosts economic activity in the project's location by generating the demand for goods and services offered by local companies, promoting competition, increasing sales and increasing income earned by employees of small and medium-sized enterprises. Involving local companies provides stable incentives for entrepreneurship, demonstrates the benefits of corresponding life strategies and creates attractive patterns of entrepreneurial behaviour.

Levels of Achievement

Уровень 1: The share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project is from 20 % to 39.9 %. The share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project is from 200 % to 39.9 %.

Уровень 2: The share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project is from % to 59.9 %. The share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project is from 40 % to 59.9 %.

Уровень 3: The share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project is from 60 % to 79.9 %. The share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project is from 60 % to 79.9 %.

Уровень 4: The share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project is from 80 % and above. The share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project is 80 % and above.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the number of local jobs created by the project and the number of local companies involved in the project.

A.1 The project team should assess the number of local jobs created by the project. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.
A local job is the job of an employee whose residence (permanent or temporary place of residence) is in the project impacted area.

A.2 The project team should assess the number of local companies involved in the project. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.
A local company is a company with at least two-thirds of employees whose residence (permanent or temporary place of residence) is in the project impacted area.

(B) Share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project:

- **for Level 1** – from 20 % to 39.9 %;
- **for Level 2** – from 40 % to 59.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – from 60 % to 79.9 %;
- **for Level 4** – 80 % and above.

B.1 The project team should calculate the share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project, using the information specified in Requirement A.1. Calculations should be valid as at a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project is calculated as the ratio of local jobs created by the project to all jobs created by the project. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.

(C) Share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project:

- **for Level 1** – from 20 % to 39.9 %;
- **for Level 2** – from 40 % to 59.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – from 60 % to 79.9 %;
- **for Level 4** – 80 % and above.

C.1 The project team should calculate the share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project, using the information specified in Requirement A.2. Calculations should be valid as at a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project is calculated as the ratio of local companies involved in the project to all companies involved in the project. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Assessed number of local jobs created by the project.
- Assessed number of local companies involved in the project.

(B) Calculated share of local jobs in the total number of jobs created by the project.

(C) Calculated share of local companies in the total number of companies involved in the project.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"

Related Credits

- **EG-2** Alignment with strategic planning priorities
- **EG-5** Project risk and benefits management

200 QL-4 Asset quality for users

15 Level 1
A + B + C

Analysis of aspects and identification of requirements

20 Level 2
A + B + C + D + E

Planning and involvement of project stakeholders

45 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F + G

Plan implementation and updating

60 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

60 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J + K

Substantial contribution to improving the situation in the relevant sphere

A Analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of asset quality.

B Identify regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of asset quality.

C Assess whether asset quality meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

D Formulate a asset quality assurance plan.

E Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of asset quality, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether asset quality meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the asset quality assurance plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

F Carry out the asset quality assurance plan.

G Evaluate progress in carrying out the asset quality assurance plan on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the asset quality assurance plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

H Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with asset quality assurance.

I Organise independent verification on the asset quality assurance plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

J Provide unrestricted access to the asset quality assurance plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

K Ensure that the asset makes a substantial contribution to improving the situation in the sphere corresponding to the functional purpose of the asset in the area affected by the project.

Description

Infrastructure assets should ensure their safety, quality, durability, resilience, and convenience for users. The operation of infrastructure assets should take into account the required level of safety and durability as well as quality characteristics to prevent any emergencies in order to preserve the life and health of people. Asset quality is also determined by the asset's convenience for users, including the convenience of services provided. The project team should develop a asset quality assurance plan with due consideration to relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms to ensure that the asset operates as planned throughout its life cycle in accordance with its functional purpose.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The relevant aspects of asset quality are analysed and substantiated; regulatory requirements and governance standards for the aspects are identified; work is done on assessing whether asset quality meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project is provided with a asset quality assurance plan. Project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are involved in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of asset quality and, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether asset quality meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the asset quality assurance plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

Level 3: The asset quality assurance plan is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of asset quality assurance are assured and confirmed by project stakeholder satisfaction surveys and external independent verification.

Level 5: A substantial contribution is made to improving the situation in the sphere corresponding to the functional purpose of the asset in the project impacted area.

Assessment Elements

(A) Analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of asset quality.

A.1 *The project team should identify, analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of asset quality.*

A.2 *The analysis should include but not be limited to the following aspects:*

- *Ensuring the convenience of the assets functional characteristics for users (for example, staircases, doorways, floor coverings etc).*
- *Complying with noise emission requirements—ensuring that noise meets regulatory requirements and standards; using noise screens, noise enclosures and other noise reducers.*
- *Using safe, environmentally friendly and durable materials and equipment—ensuring that their quality and characteristics meet regulatory requirements and standards, including energy conservation and energy efficiency requirements.*
- *Complying with vibration emission requirements—ensuring that vibration meets regulatory requirements and standards; reducing permissible vibration by using dynamic vibration dampers, vibration insulation and vibration damping methods.*
- *Complying with light emission requirements—ensuring that light meets regulatory requirements and standards; controlling light intensity, power and direction; using illumination devices with motion sensors.*
- *Preventing the negative impact of hazardous emissions, radioactive emissions, electromagnetic and other types of radiation, and the asset's unsatisfactory hygienic condition on the life and health of people during the operation of the asset.*
- *Ensuring easy access and navigation—using an integrated system of visual signs, voice announcements, tactile signs for visually impaired or blind people etc.*
- *Ensuring accessibility for people with limited mobility—making the asset suitable for people with limited mobility; providing easy access to entrances and passages, stairs, ramps, lifts and escape ways.*
- *Ensuring resilience against accidents—preventing industrial or anthropogenic accidents that threaten the life of people (including transport accidents; fires; explosions; the collapse of buildings and structures; chemical, energy and other types of accidents).*

A.3 *Analysing the relevant aspects of asset quality covers and substantiates the project's unique aspects with due consideration to the particularities of the project, including technical, technological and other characteristics.*

A.4 *Analysing the relevant aspects of asset quality includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(B) Identify regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of asset quality.

B.1 *Regulatory requirements set forth in the laws in force in the project's location should be identified for the*

relevant aspects of asset quality for people and the environment.

B.2 *Generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices should be identified for the relevant aspects of asset quality.*

B.3 *Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of asset quality takes into account the particularities of the project, including industrial, territorial, physiographic, technical, financial, legal and other factors.*

B.4 *Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of asset quality includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(C) Assess whether asset quality meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C.1 *It is necessary to assess how the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of asset quality.*

C.2 *The assessment should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

C.3 *The assessment should be made by project team members responsible for risk management, with the involvement of a an independent specialized expert organisation.*

C.4 *If necessary and based on the findings of the assessment, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(D) Formulate a asset quality assurance plan.

D.1 *The project team should formulate a asset quality assurance plan.*

D.2 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments to ensure compliance with the requirements applicable to the relevant aspects of asset quality and introduce the relevant technical and technological solutions.*

D.3 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

D.4 *The plan should include examining the asset safety (for example, road safety audits in road construction projects).*

D.5 *The plan should include applying Safety in Design at the stages of design and construction.*

(E) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of asset quality, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether asset quality meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the asset quality assurance plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

E.1 *Analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of asset quality, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether asset quality meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the asset quality assurance plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues.*

(F) Carry out the asset quality assurance plan.

F.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments, including their technical and technological solutions, are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(G)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the asset quality assurance plan on a regular basis.

G.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the asset quality assurance plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments, including their technical and technological solutions, and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the asset quality assurance plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

G.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the asset quality assurance plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(H) Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with asset quality assurance.

H.1 *The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with asset quality assurance. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.*

(I) Organise independent verification on the asset quality assurance plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

I.1 *The asset quality assurance plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

I.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(J) Provide unrestricted access to the asset quality assurance plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J.1 *Asset quality assurance plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

(K) Ensure that the asset makes a substantial contribution to improving the situation in the sphere corresponding to the functional purpose of the asset in the project impacted area.

K.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the asset's operational*

characteristics make a substantial contribution to improving the situation in the sphere corresponding to the functional purpose of the asset in the project impacted area.

K.2 *A substantial contribution to improving the situation in the sphere corresponding to the functional purpose of the asset in the project impacted area should be substantiated by assessing the indicators describing the condition and changes in the sphere.*

K.3 *Assessing the asset's contribution to improving the situation in the sphere corresponding to the functional purpose of the asset in the project impacted area includes using quantitative analysis methods (for example, correlation and regression analysis).*

K.4 *The project team should provide the findings of assessing the asset's contribution to improving the situation in the sphere corresponding to the functional purpose of the asset in the project impacted area, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.*

Evidence Guidance

(A) Findings of analysing the relevant aspects of asset quality.

(B) List of regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of asset quality.

(C) Findings of assessing whether asset quality meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

(D) Asset quality assurance plan.

(E)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(F) Report on asset quality assurance plan implementation.

(G) Report on asset quality assurance plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H) Project stakeholder satisfaction survey report. Case studies.

(I)

- Report on independent verification on asset quality assurance plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the asset quality assurance plan.

(J) Online platforms used to publish the asset quality assurance plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

(K) Documentary evidence that the asset makes a substantial contribution to improving the situation in the sphere corresponding to the functional purpose of the asset in the project impacted area.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 4** "Building resilience against natural disasters and other risks"
- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"

Related Credits

- **QL-1** Occupational health, safety and wellbeing
- **QL-2** Minimising negative impact of construction
- **QL-8** Safety of asset decommissioning

133 QL-5 Mobility and access

8 Level 1
A + B

Analysis and assessment of impact on traffic networks and flows

14 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Planning and involvement of project stakeholders

30 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and updating

45 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

36 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Substantial improvement of mobility and access

A Analyse traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles.

B Assess the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C Formulate a mobility and access plan.

D Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, assessing the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the mobility and access plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

E Carry out the mobility and access plan.

F Evaluate progress in carrying out the mobility and access plan on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the mobility and access plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

G Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with how project stakeholders are informed about changes in traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles and with mobility and access.

H Organise independent verification on the mobility and access plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

I Provide unrestricted access to the mobility and access plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J Ensure that the project substantially improves traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles.

Description

Infrastructure projects often have an impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles as a result of the construction of new buildings and structures, changes in spatial planning, land surveying etc. Projects can substantially impair mobility and access in the project impacted area, thus substantially degrading the quality of life in the area. The infrastructure project should not have negative effects on quality of life, whose important elements include the mobility of pedestrians and vehicles and convenient access to various sites, buildings and structures. Therefore, ensuring mobility and access is one of the important goals of the project team.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles are analysed. Work is done on assessing the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles and assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project is provided with a mobility and access plan. Project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are involved in analysing traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, assessing the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the mobility and access plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

Level 3: The mobility and access plan is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of mobility and access are assured and confirmed by project stakeholder satisfaction surveys and external independent verification.

Level 5: Mobility and access are substantially improved.

Assessment Elements

(A) Analyse traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles.

- A.1 *The project team should provide a comprehensive description of traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles in the project impacted area.*
- A.2 *The description of traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles is based on up-to-date information about actual and forecasted traffic for the project life cycle.*
- A.3 *The description of traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles should take into account regulatory requirements, including regulations, planning documents and forecasts of future changes.*
- A.4 *The description of traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles should take into account generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*
- A.5 *The analysis should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*
- A.6 *The description of traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles is given consideration in design documents.*

(B) Assess the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

- B.1 *The project team should assess the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles. The assessment should include ranking their elements by degree of the project's impact on their conditions and describing types of relevant effects, their strength and scale, their occurrence and duration, management methods and other characteristics. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*
- B.2 *Assessing the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles includes qualitative and quantitative analysis (for example, maps of effects, transport modelling etc).*
- B.3 *Assessing the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*
- B.4 *The assessment of the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*
- B.5 *It is necessary to assess whether and how the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*
- B.6 *Assessing whether the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*
- B.7 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Formulate a mobility and access plan.

C.1 *The project team should formulate a mobility and access plan to ensure the operation of traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles in the project impacted area.*

C.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

C.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring that:*

- *emergency services have safe and easy access;*
- *information about changes in traffic flows of pedestrians and vehicles is made available by visual signs, voice announcements, tactile signs for visually impaired or blind people etc;*
- *all existing traffic flows of pedestrians and vehicles remain in place or are replaced by equal alternatives;*
- *people with limited mobility have access to comfortable and safe traffic;*
- *traffic flows of pedestrians and vehicles, including different types of transport, territorial networks etc, are integrated into each other;*
- *traffic routes of pedestrians and vehicles do not become substantially longer;*
- *traffic flows of pedestrians and vehicles are maintained;*
- *traffic flows of pedestrians and vehicles are not reduced;*
- *vehicle accident rates are not increased.*

C.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(D) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, assessing the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the mobility and access plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

D.1 *Analysing traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, assessing the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements, formulating the mobility and access plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the mobility and access plan and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.*

(E) Carry out the mobility and access plan.

E.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the mobility and access plan on a regular basis.

   F.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the mobility and access plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments to attain KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

   AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the mobility and access plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

   F.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the mobility and access plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(G) Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with how project stakeholders are informed about changes in traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles and with mobility and access.

G.1 *The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with how project stakeholders are informed about changes in traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.*

G.2 *The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with mobility and access. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.*

(H) Organise independent verification on the mobility and access plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

H.1 *The mobility and access plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

H.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(I) Provide unrestricted access to the mobility and access plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

I.1 *The mobility and access plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

(J) Ensure that the project substantially improves traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles.

J.1 The project team should provide evidence that the project improves substantially, above the current regulatory requirements, traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles, which is expressed, for example, in creating new transport networks and routes, achieving greater integration across transport networks or different modes of transport, improving the quality of transport and pedestrian infrastructure etc.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Description of traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Findings of assessing the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles.
- Findings of assessing whether the project's impact on traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles is permitted.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(C) Mobility and access plan.

(D)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(E) Report on mobility and access plan implementation.

(F) Report on mobility and access plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(G) Project stakeholder satisfaction survey reports. Case studies.

(H)

- Report on independent verification on mobility and access plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the mobility and access plan.

(I) Online platforms used to publish the mobility and access plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and other relevant information.

(J) Documentary evidence that the project substantially improves traffic networks and flows of pedestrians and vehicles.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"

Related Credits

- **N/A**

133 QL-6 Landscape and local character integrity

8 Level 1
A + B

Analysis and assessment of impact on landscape and local character

14 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Planning and involvement of project stakeholders

30 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and updating

45 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

36 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Substantial improvement of landscape and local character

A Analyse landscape and local character.

B Assess the project's impact on landscape and local character and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C Formulate a plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity.

D Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing landscape and local character, assessing the project's impact on landscape and local character, formulating the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

E Carry out the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity.

F Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity based on the findings of the evaluation.

G Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with the landscape and local character integrity and with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making.

H Organise independent verification on the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity and on the outcomes of the plan.

I Provide unrestricted access to the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J Ensure that the project substantially improves landscape and local character.

Description

Infrastructure projects give particular attention to their impact on the landscape and local character of existing local buildings and sites, which is a combination of natural and cultural components and social phenomena that form the architectural and spatial environment in relation to the life of people. The existing landscape and local character is the basis for the shaping of the local environment. Ensuring that the project is consistent with the landscape and local character is closely related to maintaining and improving quality of life and environmental stability. Measures to ensure the landscape and local character integrity do not imply that the existing environment must not be improved or altered; they involve helping new or renovated sites to harmonise with the surrounding area, which may sometimes transform the landscape and local character substantially, ensuring their aesthetic unity.

At the design stage, the project team should analyse the landscape and local character affected by the project in order to identify the landscape and local character, the nature of the existing buildings and sites and their style, the landscape, materials, types of landscaping, and the particularities of environment improvement. The infrastructure project should ensure the landscape and local character integrity and, if possible, improve it.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Landscape and local character is analysed. Work is done on assessing the project's impact on landscape and local character and assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project is provided with a plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity. Project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are involved in analysing landscape and local character, assessing the project's impact on landscape and local character, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

Level 3: The plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of ensuring the landscape and local character integrity are assured and confirmed by project stakeholder satisfaction surveys and external independent verification.

Level 5: Landscape and local character is substantially improved.

Assessment Elements

(A) Analyse landscape and local character.

A.1 *The project team should provide a comprehensive description of landscape and local character affected by the project. The description covers buildings; existing architectural solutions; heights, styles, shapes and sculptural characteristics; colour schemes; landscape features; types of landscaping; materials.*

A.2 *The description of landscape and local character should take into account regulatory requirements, including regulations, planning documents and forecasts of future changes.*

A.3 *The description of landscape and local character should take into account generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

A.4 *The description of landscape and local character is prepared with due consideration to forecasts of future changes specified in the relevant planning documents.*

A.5 *The analysis should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

A.6 *The description of landscape and local character is given consideration in design documents.*

(B) Assess the project's impact on landscape and local character and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess the project's impact on landscape and local character. The findings of the assessment include a description of the elements and sites affected by the project, specifying the degree and nature of the project's impact on their condition, including its strength, scale, duration and probability, and the relevant managerial mechanisms. The assessment takes into account the possibility of integrating new sites into the existing environment without damage to its integrity, ensuring that new sites are structurally, colouristically, decoratively and stylistically linked with existing buildings and natural landscapes. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.2 *Assessing the project's impact on landscape and local character includes qualitative and quantitative analysis (for example, spatial modelling, field studies, graphical analysis etc).*

B.3 *Assessing the project's impact on landscape and local character includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

B.4 *The assessment of the project's impact on landscape and local character should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

B.5 *It is necessary to assess whether and how the project's impact on landscape and local character is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.6 *Assessing whether the project's impact on landscape and local character is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.7 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the project's impact on landscape and local character is permitted, the project's characteristics should be*

adjusted.

(C) Formulate a plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity.

C.1 *The project team should formulate a plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity affected by the project.*

C.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

C.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring that:*

- *the project harmonises with the specific features of the environment;*
- *the general appearance, panorama and main features of the environment are not degraded (unless otherwise specified in spatial planning documents);*
- *the architectural and landscape unity of the environment is preserved (unless otherwise specified in spatial planning documents);*
- *existing natural landscapes (including vegetation) and cultural landscapes are preserved (unless otherwise specified in spatial planning documents);*
- *the negative impact on landscape and local character is minimised;*
- *design solutions are consistent with the specific features of existing buildings and sites in respect of styles, heights, materials, colour schemes etc (unless otherwise specified in spatial planning documents);*
- *separate architectural solutions harmonise with each other (unless otherwise specified in spatial planning documents);*
- *the project can be adapted for future changes in landscape and local character in the long term.*

C.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(D) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing landscape and local character, assessing the project's impact on landscape and local character, formulating the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

D.1 *Analysing landscape and local character, assessing the project's impact on landscape and local character, formulating the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.*

(E) Carry out the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity.

E.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example, in the form*

of plan implementation reports or documents containing the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity on a regular basis.

   F.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

   AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity based on the findings of the evaluation.

   F.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(G) Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with the landscape and local character integrity and with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making.

G.1 *The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with the landscape and local character integrity. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.*

G.2 *The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making related to the landscape and local character integrity. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.*

(H) Organise independent verification on the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity and on the outcomes of the plan.

H.1 *Plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

H.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(I) Provide unrestricted access to the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

I.1 *Plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and*

interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

(J) Ensure that the project substantially improves landscape and local character.

J.1 The project team should provide evidence that the project improves substantially, above the current regulatory requirements, landscape and local character, which is expressed, for example, in restoring decaying buildings and sites, creating or improving various natural and/or cultural landscapes, and improving public spaces.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Description of landscape and local character.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Findings of assessing the project's impact on landscape and local character.
- Findings of assessing whether the project's impact on landscape and local character is permitted.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(C) Plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity.

(D)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors. .
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(E) Report on the implementation of the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity.

(F) Report on the implementation of the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(G) Project stakeholder satisfaction survey reports. Case studies.

(H)

- Report on independent verification on the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity.

(I) Online platforms used to publish the plan to ensure the landscape and local character integrity, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and other relevant information.

(J) Documentary evidence that the project substantially improves landscape and local character.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"

Related Credits

- **QL-7** Protection of cultural heritage

133 QL-7 Protection of cultural heritage

8 Level 1
A + B

Identification and analysis of assets

14 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Planning and involvement of project stakeholders

30 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and updating

45 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

36 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Additional substantial contribution to the protection of cultural heritage

A Identify all cultural heritage assets affected by the project and analyse their condition.

B Assess the project's impact on cultural heritage assets and assess whether the project's impact meets permissible impact levels.

C Formulate a plan to protect cultural heritage.

D Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in identifying cultural heritage assets and analysing their condition, assessing the project's impact on cultural heritage assets, assessing whether the project's impact meets permissible impact levels, formulating the plan to protect cultural heritage, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

E Carry out the plan to protect cultural heritage.

F Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to protect cultural heritage on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the plan to protect cultural heritage based on the findings of the evaluation.

G Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with the protection of cultural heritage and with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making.

H Organise independent verification on the list of cultural heritage assets affected by the project, on the plan to protect cultural heritage, and on the outcomes of the plan.

I Provide unrestricted access to the plan to protect cultural heritage, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J Ensure that the project additionally substantially improves the protection of cultural heritage affected by the project.

Description

Throughout the life cycle of an infrastructure project, it is necessary to consider the potential impact of the project on cultural heritage assets (including historic and cultural monuments). Cultural heritage assets are of unique value to society.

In implementing the project, it is important to ensure that measures are taken to protect cultural heritage, including by minimising the negative impact of the project on cultural heritage assets and working to identify and/or restore cultural heritage assets.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: All cultural heritage assets affected by the project are identified, and their condition is analysed. Work is done on assessing the project's impact on cultural heritage assets and assessing whether the project's impact meets permissible impact levels.

Level 2: The project is provided with a plan to protect cultural heritage. Project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are involved in identifying cultural heritage assets and analysing their condition, assessing the project's impact on cultural heritage assets, assessing whether the project's impact on cultural heritage assets meets permissible impact levels, formulating the plan to protect cultural heritage, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

Level 3: The plan to protect cultural heritage is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of protection of cultural heritage are assured and confirmed by project stakeholder satisfaction surveys and external independent verification.

Level 5: The protection of cultural heritage is additionally substantially improved.

Assessment Elements

(A) Identify all cultural heritage assets affected by the project and analyse their condition.

A.1 *The project team should make a list of cultural heritage assets affected by the project. Cultural heritage assets are real properties (including archaeological heritage assets) and other assets with areas historically associated with them; works of painting, sculpture, arts and crafts; objects of science and technology; and other cultural items that are created by historic events, are of value in the context of history, archaeology, architecture, urban planning, art, science and technology, aesthetics, ethnology or anthropology, and social culture, are evidence of eras and civilisations, and are true sources of information about the origin and development of culture.*

A.2 *To identify cultural heritage assets, the project team should use a full range of available sources of information, including international, governmental and municipal registers, studies, collections, reference books, publications, archival documents, data from expert organisations, data from local public institutions and activists, surveys of local residents etc. The list should include both registered and unregistered cultural heritage assets.*

A.3 *The list should specify the main characteristics of each cultural heritage asset (including the type, time and nature of its origin; value; authenticity; condition (level of physical deterioration); registration on registers; ownership and management structure; technical characteristics; location or storage address).*

A.4 *The list of cultural heritage assets should take into account regulatory requirements.*

A.5 *The list of cultural heritage assets should take into account generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

A.6 *The identification of cultural heritage assets and the analysis of their condition should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

A.7 *The project team should take all possible measures to collect information about unregistered cultural heritage assets affected by the project and have them duly registered.*

A.8 *Information contained in the list of cultural heritage assets is given consideration in design documents.*

(B) Assess the project's impact on cultural heritage assets and assess whether the project's impact meets permissible impact levels.

B.1 *The project team should assess the project's impact on cultural heritage assets, including describing the nature of the impact (positive or negative), the type, degree and duration of the project's impact; methods of impact minimisation; and other characteristics. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.2 *Assessing the project's impact on cultural heritage assets includes qualitative and quantitative analysis (for example, engineering, technical, physical and chemical examinations; expert assessments etc).*

B.3 *Assessing the project's impact on cultural heritage assets includes*

examining the implementation of comparable projects.

B.4 *The assessment of the project's impact on cultural heritage assets should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

B.5 *It is necessary to assess whether and how the project's impact on cultural heritage assets meets permissible impact levels. Permissible impact levels should be contained in technical specifications of the asset, specified in the relevant regulatory requirements for assets of this type, specified in the relevant governance standards, established by engineering and technical examinations, based on the previous experience of using comparable assets, or confirmed by other methods. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.6 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the project's impact on cultural heritage assets meets permissible impact levels, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Formulate a plan to protect cultural heritage.

C.1 *The project team should formulate a plan to protect cultural heritage affected by the project.*

C.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

C.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:*

- *cultural heritage assets are protected from physical damage and maintain historical and cultural value;*
- *cultural heritage assets are conserved, repaired and restored;*
- *cultural heritage assets are adapted for modern use (if applicable);*
- *cultural heritage assets lost due to project implementation are restored and reconstructed;*
- *cultural heritage assets are moved (if there are no technically and financially viable alternatives to such movement);*
- *compensation for damage to cultural heritage assets or their complete loss if it is not possible to minimise the negative impact and restore the asset;*
- *assistance is provided in order to have unregistered cultural heritage assets duly registered;*
- *R&D, design and production activities are carried out in order to protect cultural heritage;*
- *measures are taken to exercise scientific supervision of the protection of cultural heritage assets and provide technical and architectural supervision for such work.*

C.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(D) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in identifying cultural heritage assets and analysing their condition, assessing the project's impact on cultural heritage assets, assessing whether the project's impact meets permissible impact levels, formulating the plan to protect cultural heritage, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

D.1 *Identifying cultural heritage assets and analysing their condition, assessing the project's impact on cultural heritage assets, assessing*

whether the project's impact meets permissible impact levels, formulating the plan to protect cultural heritage, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues.

(E) Carry out the plan to protect cultural heritage.

E.1 The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to protect cultural heritage on a regular basis.

F.1.1 Progress in carrying out the plan to protect cultural heritage is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the plan to protect cultural heritage based on the findings of the evaluation.

F.2.1 The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the plan to protect cultural heritage requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.

(G) Ensure that the project team evaluates project stakeholder satisfaction with the protection of cultural heritage and with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making.

G.1 The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with the protection of cultural heritage. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.

G.2 The project team should regularly (at least once every six months) evaluate project stakeholder satisfaction with how opinions and proposals of project stakeholders are given consideration in project decision-making. The project team should provide the results of project stakeholder satisfaction surveys, for example in the form of reports or their equivalents and in the form of case studies.

(H) Organise independent verification on the list of cultural heritage assets affected by the project, on the plan to protect cultural heritage, and on the outcomes of the plan.

H.1 The list of cultural heritage assets affected by the project, the plan to protect cultural heritage, and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent

experts. Independent verification should cover the list, plan and plan implementation reports.

H.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(I) Provide unrestricted access to the plan to protect cultural heritage, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

I.1 *The plan to protect cultural heritage, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

(J) Ensure that the project additionally substantially improves the protection of cultural heritage affected by the project.

J.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the project improves substantially, above the current regulatory requirements, the protection of cultural heritage, which is expressed, for example, in:*

- *repairing, restoring and temporarily closing down cultural heritage assets;*
- *restoring cultural heritage assets lost otherwise than in the project;*
- *carrying out environment improvement in the areas where cultural heritage assets are located;*
- *formulating a comprehensible and attractive concept of explaining the value of cultural heritage assets;*
- *increasing the value of cultural heritage assets;*
- *increasing the efficiency of using cultural heritage assets, including by adapting them for use for various purposes consistent with their protection;*
- *helping to popularise cultural heritage assets by actively communicating with the main target audiences through various channels and organising various events for a wide range of visitors, such as exhibitions, excursions, lectures, workshops etc.*

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- List of cultural heritage assets.
- Evidence that measures are taken to have unregistered cultural heritage assets duly registered.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Findings of assessing the project's impact on cultural heritage assets.
- Findings of assessing whether the project's impact on cultural heritage assets meets permissible impact levels.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(C) Plan to protect cultural heritage.

(D)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(E) Report on the implementation of the plan to protect cultural heritage.

(F) Report on the implementation of the plan to protect cultural heritage. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(G) Project stakeholder satisfaction survey reports. Case studies.

(H)

- Report on independent verification on the list of cultural heritage assets affected by the project.
- Report on independent verification on the plan to protect cultural heritage.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the plan to protect cultural heritage.

(I) Online platforms used to publish the plan to protect cultural heritage, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information.

(J) Documentary evidence that the project makes an additional substantial contribution to the protection of cultural heritage.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"

Related Credits

- **QL-6** Landscape and local character integrity

50 QL-8 Safety of asset decommissioning

9 Level 1 A + B + C Analysis of aspects and identification of requirements	A Analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment. B Identify regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment. C Assess whether the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.		
15 Level 2 A + B + C + D + E Planning and involvement of project stakeholders		D Formulate a plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment. E Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, and formulating the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.	
26 Level 3 A + B + C + D + E + F + G Quality and transparency of the plan			F Organise independent verification on the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment. G Provide unrestricted access to the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment and other relevant information.
Level 4 N/A			
Level 5 N/A			

Description

Infrastructure asset decommissioning may, under certain circumstances, pose a threat to the life of people and the environment. The project team should ensure by introducing modern technical and technological solutions that the safety of infrastructure asset decommissioning is in accordance with legal requirements and standards. The plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning should include measures and mechanisms to prevent any negative impact on people and the environment.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment are analysed and substantiated; regulatory requirements and governance standards for the aspects are identified; work is done on assessing whether the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project is provided with a plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment. Project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are involved in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment, identifying the relevant regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether the safety of asset decommissioning meets such regulatory requirements and governance standards, and formulating the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

Level 3: The quality and transparency of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment are assured and confirmed by external independent verification.

Assessment Elements

(A) Analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

A.1 *The project team should identify, analyse and substantiate the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.*

A.2 *The analysis should include but not be limited to the following aspects:*

- *Ensuring the safety of asset dismantling, mothballing and conversion and other work related to asset decommissioning.*
- *Ensuring the removal of waste, materials, equipment and vehicles and the disposal of hazardous materials and waste.*
- *Cleaning and improving the site; restoring land, natural and cultural landscapes.*
- *Preventing the negative impact of asset decommissioning on people and the environment by identifying the relevant risks, introducing technical and technological solutions and conducting technical monitoring.*
- *Using safe and environmentally friendly technologies, materials and equipment that do not cause harm to the life and health of people or the environment.*
- *Ensuring safe access to the site—controlling access to the site; preventing unauthorised access; setting up fences around the site; ensuring the security of the site and protecting the asset from damage; maintaining order in the area adjacent to the site.*
- *Preventing the negative impact of noise, vibration, light, hazardous emissions, radioactive emissions, electromagnetic and other types of radiation, the asset's unsatisfactory hygienic condition, and injuries on the life and health of people during asset decommissioning.*
- *Preventing natural, industrial or anthropogenic accidents that threaten the life of people (including transport accidents; fires; explosions; the collapse of buildings and structures; chemical, energy and other types of accidents) by using properly functioning equipment, mechanisms, tools and safety devices for their intended purpose.*

A.3 *Analysing the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment covers and substantiates the project's unique aspects with due consideration to the particularities of the project, including technical, technological and other characteristics.*

A.4 *Analysing the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(B) Identify regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

B.1 *Regulatory requirements set forth in the laws in force in the project's location should be identified for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.*

B.2 *Generally accepted governance*

standards containing recommendations and best practices should be identified for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

B.3 *Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment takes into account the particularities of the project, including industrial, territorial, physiographic, technical, financial, legal and other factors.*

B.4 *Identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

(C) Assess whether the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C.1 *It is necessary to assess how the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.*

C.2 *The assessment should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

C.3 *The assessment should be made by project team members responsible for risk management, with the involvement of an independent specialized expert organisation.*

C.4 *If necessary and based on the findings of the assessment, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(D) Formulate a plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

D.1 *The project team should formulate a plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.*

D.2 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments to ensure compliance with the requirements applicable to the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment and introduce the relevant technical and technological solutions.*

D.3 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(E) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards, assessing whether the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, and formulating the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

E.1 *Analysing and substantiating the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment, identifying regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment, assessing whether the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment meets regulatory*

requirements and governance standards, and formulating the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues.

(F) Organise independent verification on the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

- F.1 *The plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan.*
- F.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(G) Provide unrestricted assess to the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment and other relevant information.

- G.1 *Plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

Evidence Guidance

(A) Findings of analysing the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

(B) List of regulatory requirements and governance standards for the relevant aspects of the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

(C) Findings of assessing whether the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

(D) Plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

(E)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(F) Report on independent verification on the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment.

(G) Online platforms used to publish the plan to ensure the safety of asset decommissioning for people and the environment and other relevant information.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 4** "Building resilience against natural disasters and other risks"
- **Principle 5** "Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment"

Related Credits

- **QL-1** Occupational health, safety and wellbeing
- **QL-2** Minimising negative impact of construction
- **QL-4** Asset quality for users

Infrastructure projects should be safe for the environment and resistant to extreme natural events and negative climate changes. When implementing infrastructure projects, efficient consumption of water, natural and energy resources must be ensured. Ecology and Climate contain complex requirements for the degree and nature of the possible impact of the project on the environment. Ecology and Climate assess the effectiveness of the project in terms of its water and resource capacity, energy efficiency.

EC-1 Waste reduction

EC-2 Air protection

EC-3 Greenhouse gas emissions reduction

EC-4 Sustainable use of agricultural land

EC-5 Sustainable use of undeveloped land

EC-6 Biodiversity conservation

EC-7 Aquatic ecosystems conservation

EC-8 Groundwater conservation

EC-9 Reduction of water intensity

EC-10 Energy efficiency

EC-11 Use of renewable energy sources

EC-12 Use of recycled materials

Bonus points

Credit List

90 EC-1 Waste reduction

8 Level 1
A + B + C

Assessment of waste

- A Assess the quantity of waste generated by the project.
- B Assess whether the quantity of waste generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

18 Level 2
A + B + C + D + E

Waste reduction:
5% to 24.9%

- C Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.
- D Formulate a plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.
- E Reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project by 5–24.9%.

28 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F + G

Waste reduction:
25% to 49.9%

- F Carry out the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.
- G Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project on a regular basis.

  AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

  Update the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project based on the findings of the evaluation.
- E Reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project by 25–49.9%.

36 Level 4
A+B+C+D+E+F +G+H+I+J

Waste reduction:
50% and above

- H Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the quantity of waste generated by the project, assessing whether the quantity of waste generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.
- I Organise independent verification on the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project and on the outcomes of the plan.
- J Provide unrestricted access to the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.
- E Reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project by 50% and above.

Level 5
N/A

Description

Infrastructure projects that meet the requirements of the Methodology should be aimed at reducing the quantity of waste generated by the project at all stages of the project life cycle. Waste has a negative impact on the environment and the health of people. In addition, hazardous and toxic substances contained in waste cause an apparent hazard to the life of people. Therefore, the development and implementation of special mechanisms to achieve the greatest possible reduction of the quantity of waste generated by the project should make it possible to minimise the negative impact of waste on the environment and the health of people and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The project team assesses the quantity of waste generated by the project, including providing a baseline forecast, and assesses whether the quantity of waste meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project team formulates the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project and introduces organisational mechanisms to carry out and monitor the plan and manage the relevant processes, including by forming a special task force. Waste is reduced by 5 % – 24.9 %.

Level 3: The task force implements and monitors the plan, evaluating progress in carrying out the plan on a regular basis. The plan is updated on a regular basis, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Waste is reduced by a 25 % – 49.9 %.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of plan implementation are ensured, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in relevant processes and by organising independent verification. Waste is reduced by 50 % and above.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the quantity of waste generated by the project.

A.1 *The project team should assess the quantity of waste generated by the project. The assessment should include providing a baseline forecast on waste generated at each stage of the project life cycle for the reporting periods specified by the project team (the reporting period should not exceed six months). The quantity of waste can be lower than specified in the baseline forecast, including by using technical and technological solutions that are not currently required by law or industry standards. Whether or not such solutions can be used should not be included in baseline forecast calculations. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

A.2 *The assessment should include categorising waste by hazard class, by type, by time, by generation process etc.*
Waste hazard classes:

- *Class 1 — extremely hazardous waste (mercury, benzopyrene, polonium, plutonium etc).*
- *Class 2 — highly hazardous waste (cadmium, cobalt, lithium, hydrogen sulphide, arsenic etc).*
- *Class 3 — moderately hazardous waste (ethanol, aluminium, copper, silver, iron, nickel, manganese, chromium etc).*
- *Class 4 — low-hazard waste (solid asphalt/bitumen waste; gypsum, concrete, brick dust etc).*
- *Class 5 — virtually non-hazardous waste (waste paper, wooden containers, domestic construction waste, plastic packaging etc).*

A.3 *Assessing the quantity of waste generated by the project includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

A.4 *The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

(B) Assess whether the quantity of waste generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess whether and how the quantity of waste generated by the project is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.2 *Assessing whether the quantity of waste generated by the project is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.3 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the quantity of waste generated by the project is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.

C.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to decision-making with respect to the waste reduction.*

C.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.*

C.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to decision-making with respect to the waste reduction should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(D) Formulate a plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.

D.1 The project team should formulate a plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.

D.2 The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.

D.3 The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:

- *proactive measures are taken in respect of waste generation;*
- *production processes are improved to reduce waste;*
- *zero-waste and low-waste technology is introduced;*
- *waste is recycled and reused;*
- *processes of waste collection, sorting, processing, transport, disposal and storage are organised and monitored.*

D.4 The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the waste reduction above the baseline forecast for the relevant reporting periods.

(E) Reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project:

- **for Level 2** – by 5 % – 24.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – by 25 % – 49.9 %;
- **for Level 4** – by 50 % and above.

E.1 The project team should assess the actual quantity of waste generated by the project.

E.2 Assessing the actual quantity of waste generated by the project should include categorising waste by hazard class, by type, by time, by generation process etc.

E.3 The assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.

E.4 The project team should calculate the reduction of the quantity of waste generated by the project, using the information specified in Requirements A.1 и E.1. alculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The reduction of waste generated by the project is calculated as the absolute value of the growth index on the basis of the ratio of the actual quantity of waste generated by the project to the baseline forecast of waste generated by the project for the relevant reporting period. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.

(F) Carry out the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.

F.1 The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.

(G)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project on a regular basis.

G.1.1 Progress in carrying out the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations

are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project based on the findings of the evaluation.

G.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(H) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the quantity of waste generated by the project, assessing whether the quantity of waste generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

H.1 *Assessing the quantity of waste generated by the project, assessing whether the quantity of waste generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.*

(I) Organise independent verification on the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project and on the outcomes of the plan.

I.1 *The plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

I.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(J) Provide unrestricted access to the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J.1 *The plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of assessing the quantity of waste generated by the project.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B) Findings of assessing whether the quantity of waste generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

(C) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(D) Plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.

(E) Calculated reduction of the quantity of waste generated by the project.

(F) Report on the implementation of the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.

(G) Report on the implementation of the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(I)

- Report on independent verification on the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project.

(J) Online platforms used to publish the plan to reduce the quantity of waste generated by the project, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and other relevant information.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-12** Use of recycled materials

115 EC-2 Air protection

8 Level 1
A + B

Analysis and assessment of impact on air

14 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Preparation of the plan and management mechanisms

27 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and updating

45 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

21 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Substantial improvement of air

A Analyse air in the area affected by the project.

B Assess the project's impact on air and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to protect air.

D Formulate an air protection plan.

E Carry out the air protection plan.

F Evaluate progress in carrying out the air protection plan on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the air protection plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

G Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's impact on air, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the air protection plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

H Organise independent verification on air protection plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

I Provide unrestricted access to the air protection plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J Ensure that the project substantially improves air.

Description

Infrastructure projects can generate emissions containing harmful substances. Solid and plastic dust particles, gases, aerosols and other types of pollutants degrade air, causing harm to the health of people, animals and plants. The infrastructure project should not result in degrading air in the project impacted area. The project team should formulate and monitor an air protection plan that includes appropriate measures and mechanisms at all stages of the project life cycle.

Levels of achievement

Level 1: Air in the project impacted area is analysed. Work is done on assessing the project's impact on air and assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project team formulates the air protection plan and introduces organisational mechanisms to carry out and monitor the plan and manage the relevant processes, including by forming a special task force.

Level 3: The air protection plan is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of air protection are ensured, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in the relevant processes and by organising independent verification.

Level 5: Air is substantially improved.

Assessment Elements

(A) Analyse air in the project impacted area.

A.1 *The project team should provide a comprehensive description of air in the project impacted area. The description covers the chemical composition of air, main air pollutants (for example, sulphur dioxide, carbon oxide, nitrogen dioxide, phenol and formaldehyde), humidity, temperature, atmospheric pressure etc. To analyse air, the project team should use a full range of available sources of information, including research studies, experimental facts, archival documents, data from expert organisations, data from national ecological monitoring services, and field data. The analysis should include using special-purpose methods (for example, chromatographic, spectral, electrochemical and microbiological methods; computer modelling).*

A.2 *The description should take into account regulatory requirements.*

A.3 *The description should take into account generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

A.4 *The analysis should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

A.5 *The findings of the analysis are given consideration in design documents.*

(B) Assess the project's impact on air and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess the project's impact on air. The assessment should include analysing the project's impact on the chemical and microbiological composition of air, specifying the degree and nature of the project's impact on its condition, including its strength, scale and duration, and the relevant managerial mechanisms. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle. Assessing the project's impact on air uses special-purpose analysis (for example, chemical and toxicological analysis, microbiological examination).*

B.2 *Assessing the project's impact on air includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

B.3 *The assessment of the project's impact on air should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

B.4 *It is necessary to assess whether and how the project's impact on air is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.5 *Assessing whether the project's impact on air is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.6 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the project's impact on air is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to protect air.

C.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to decision-making with respect to air protection.*

C.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names,*

positions and contact details.

C.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to decision-making with respect to air protection should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(D) Formulate an air protection plan.

D.1 *The project team should formulate an air protection plan.*

D.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

D.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:*

- *air pollutants are minimised;*
- *measures are taken to prevent the chemical and microbiological composition of air from being degraded;*
- *hazardous air pollutants are controlled;*
- *the pollutant content of air is controlled;*
- *measures are taken to prevent the quality of air from being degraded or restored;*
- *the negative impact on air is minimised;*
- *air monitoring is organised and conducted.*

D.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(E) Carry out the air protection plan.

E.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced, including their technical and technological solutions and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the air protection plan on a regular basis.

F.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the air protection plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments, including their technical and technological solutions, and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the air protection plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

F.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the air protection plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(G) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's impact on air, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the air protection plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

G.1 *Assessing the project's impact on air, assessing whether the*

project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the air protection plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the air protection plan and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.

(H) Organise independent verification on the air protection plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

H.1 The air protection plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.

H.2 Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.

(I) Provide unrestricted access to the air protection plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

I.1 The air protection plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

(J) Ensure that the project substantially improves air.

J.1 The project team should provide evidence that the project improves substantially, above the current regulatory requirements, air, which is expressed, for example, in cleaning polluted air, restoring the quality of air and improving its chemical and microbiological composition.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of air analysis.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Findings of assessing the project's impact on air.
- Findings of assessing whether the project's impact on air is permitted.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(C) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(D) Air protection plan.

(E) Report on air protection plan implementation.

(F) Report on air protection plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(G)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and

specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H)

- Report on independent verification on the air protection plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the air protection plan.

(I) Online platforms used to publish the air protection plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information.

(J) Documentary evidence that the project substantially improves air.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-3** Greenhouse gas emissions reduction

4 Level 1
A + B + C

Assessment of greenhouse gas emissions

- A Assess the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.
- B Assess whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

12 Level 2
A + B + C + D + E

Greenhouse gas emissions reduction: 10% to 24.9%

- D Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.
- E Formulate a plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.
- C Reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project by 10–24.9%.

27 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F + G

Greenhouse gas emissions reduction: 25% to 49.9%

- F Carry out the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.
- G Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project on a regular basis.

  AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

  Update the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project based on the findings of the evaluation.
- C Reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project by 25–49.9%.

32 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Greenhouse gas emissions reduction: 50% to 74.9%

- H Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, assessing whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.
- I Organise independent verification on the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project and on the outcomes of the plan.

25 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J + K

Greenhouse gas emissions reduction: 75% and above

- K Ensure that the project is carbon negative.
- C Reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project by 75% and above.

				J Provide unrestricted access to the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information. C Reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project by 50–74.9%.	

Description

Climate change increasingly affects the life of people, having a negative impact on economic development and leading to transformations in natural ecosystems. It is necessary that infrastructure projects should reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent climate change by introducing technical and technological solutions and improving the carbon accounting system (for both direct and indirect emissions). Internationally coordinated approaches and mechanisms responding to global climate change are contained in the Paris Agreement approved in 2015 at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and signed by the Government of the Russian Federation in 2019.

Levels of achievement

Level 1: The project team assesses the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, including providing a baseline forecast, and assesses whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project team formulates the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project and introduces organisational mechanisms to carry out and monitor the plan and manage the relevant processes, including by forming a special task force. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 10 % – 24.9 %.

Level 3: The task force implements and monitors the plan, evaluating progress in carrying out the plan on a regular basis. The plan is updated on a regular basis, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 25 % - 49.9 %.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of plan implementation are ensured, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in relevant processes and by organising independent verification. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 50 % - 74.9 %.

Level 5: The project achieves negative greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 75 % and above.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

A.1 *The project team should assess the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project. The assessment should include providing a baseline forecast on the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated at each stage of the project life cycle for the reporting periods specified by the project team (the reporting period should not exceed six months). The quantity of greenhouse gas emissions can be lower than specified in the baseline forecast, including by using technical and technological solutions that are not currently required by law or industry standards. Whether or not such solutions can be used should not be included in baseline forecast calculations. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

A.2 *The assessment should include categorising greenhouse gas emissions by hazard class, by type, by time, by generation process etc.*

A.3 *Assessing the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

A.4 *The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

(B) Assess whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess whether and how the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.2 *Assessing whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.3 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project:

- **for Level 2** – by 10 % – 24.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – by 25 % – 49.9 %;
- **for Level 4** – by 50 % – 74.9 %;
- **for Level 5** – by 75 % and above.

C.1 *The project team should assess the actual quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.*

C.2 *Assessing the actual quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project should include categorising greenhouse gas emissions by time, by generation process etc.*

C.3 *The assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.*

C.4 *The project team should calculate the reduction of the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, using the information specified in Requirements A.1 and C.1. Calculations should cover a*

continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project is calculated as the absolute value of the growth index on the basis of the ratio of the actual quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project to the baseline forecast of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project for the relevant reporting period. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.

(D) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

D.1 The special task force should have formal status and authority related to decision-making with respect to the greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

D.2 A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.

D.3 Roles and responsibilities related to decision-making with respect to the greenhouse gas emissions reduction should be expressly assigned to each task force member.

(E) Formulate a plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

E.1 The project team should formulate a plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

E.2 The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.

E.3 The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:

- *greenhouse gas emissions are accounted for and controlled;*
- *energy resources are consumed sustainably;*
- *process equipment with the best environmental performance is used;*
- *energy facilities, including heat distribution networks and power lines, are modernised;*
- *compensation for greenhouse gas emissions is obtained;*
- *renewable energy sources are brought into use;*
- *a system is implemented to account for, monitor and verify greenhouse gas emissions.*

E.4 The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the greenhouse gas emissions reduction above the baseline forecast for the relevant reporting periods.

(F) Carry out the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

F.1 The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.

(G)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project on a regular basis.

G.1.1 Progress in carrying out the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports

on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project based on the findings of the evaluation.

G.2.1 The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.

(H) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and investor engagement organisations in assessing the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, assessing whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

H.1 Assessing the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, assessing whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.

(I) Organise independent verification on the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project and on the outcomes of the plan.

I.1 The plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.

I.2 Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.

(J) Provide unrestricted access to the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J.1 The plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities,

and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

(K) Ensure that the project is carbon negative.

K.1 The project team should provide calculations proving that the project removes more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere that it emits. Greenhouse gases are removed, for example, by using uptake, capturing and disposal technologies. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of assessing the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B) Findings of assessing whether the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

(C) Calculated reduction of the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

(D) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(E) Plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

(F) Report on the implementation of the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

(G) Report on the implementation of the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(I)

- Report on independent verification on the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project.

(J) Online platforms used to publish the plan to reduce the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the project, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and other relevant information.

(K) Evidence that the project removes more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere that it emits.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-2** Air protection

EC-4 Sustainable use of agricultural land

4 **Level 1** A + B	6 **Level 2** A + B	10 **Level 3** A + B	15 **Level 4** A + B	20 **Level 5** A + B + C	
Assessment of agricultural land Share of agricultural land: 10.1% to 25%	Share of agricultural land: 5.1% to 10%	Share of agricultural land: 0.1% to 5%	Agricultural land is unaffected	Restoration of agricultural land	
A Assess the area of agricultural land affected by the project.					
B Share of agricultu - ral land in the area affected by the project: 10.1% to 25%.	B Share of agricultu - ral land in the area affected by the project: 5.1% to 10%.	B Share of agricultu - ral land in the area affected by the project: 0.1% to 5%.	B Ensure that agricultural land is unaffected by the project.	C Ensure that the project restores a substantial area of agricultural land.	

Description

Infrastructure projects should ensure the sustainable use of agricultural land. The project team should ensure that such land is used to a minimal extent, striving to reduce to zero the share of agricultural land in the project impacted area and carrying out measures to restore land to the condition of agricultural land.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The area of agricultural land affected by the project is assessed. The share of agricultural land in the project impacted area is 10.1 % - 25 %.

Level 2: The share of agricultural land in the project impacted area is 5.1 % - 10 %.

Level 3: The share of agricultural land in the project impacted area is 0,1 % - 5 %.

Level 4: Agricultural land is unaffected by the project.

Level 5: Agricultural land is unaffected by the project. A substantial area of agricultural land is restored.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the area of agricultural land affected by the project.

A.1 The project team should assess the project impacted area, specifying land by category depending on its intended use (agricultural land, populated places, specially protected areas and sites etc). The assessment should cover agricultural land.

A.2 The assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.

A.3 The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.

(B) Share of agricultural land in the project impacted area:

- **for Level 1** – 10.1 % - 25 %;
- **for Level 2** – 5.1 % - 10 %;
- **for Level 3** – 0.1 % - 5 %;
- **for Levels 4 and 5** – agricultural land is unaffected by the project.

B.1 The project team should calculate the share of agricultural land in the project impacted area, using the information specified in Requirement A.1. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The share of agricultural land in the project impacted area is calculated as the ratio of agricultural land affected by the project to the total project impacted area. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.

(C) Ensure that the project restores a substantial area of agricultural land.

C.1 The project team should provide evidence that the project restores a substantial area of non-agricultural land to the condition of agricultural land that therefore may be transferred to agricultural land category.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of assessing the area of agricultural land.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B) Calculated share of agricultural land in the project impacted area.

(C) Documentary evidence that the project restores a substantial area of agricultural land.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-5** Sustainable use of undeveloped land

55 EC-5 Sustainable use of undeveloped land

4 Level 1
A + B

Assessment of undeveloped land

Share of undeveloped land: 50% to 75%

6 Level 2
A + B

Share of undeveloped land: 25% to 49.9%

10 Level 3
A + B

Share of undeveloped land: 0.1% to 24.9%

15 Level 4
A + B

Undeveloped land is unaffected

20 Level 5
A + B + C

Restoration of undeveloped land

A Assess the area of undeveloped land affected by the project.

B Share of undeve - loped land in the area affected by the project: 50% to 75%.

B Share of undeve - loped land in the area affected by the project: 25% to 49.9%.

B Share of undeve - loped land in the area affected by the project: 0.1% to 24.9%.

B Ensure that unde - veloped land is unaffected by the project.

C Ensure that the project restores a substantial area of undeveloped land.

Description

Infrastructure projects should ensure the sustainable use of undeveloped land. The project team should ensure that such land is used to a minimal extent, striving to reduce to zero the share of undeveloped land in the project impacted area and carrying out measures to restore land to the condition of undeveloped land.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The area of undeveloped land affected by the project is assessed. The share of undeveloped land in the project impacted area is 50 % - 75 %.

Level 2: The share of undeveloped land in the project impacted area is 25 % - 49.9 %.

Level 3: The share of undeveloped land in the project impacted area is 0.1 % - 24.9 %.

Level 4: Undeveloped land is unaffected by the project.

Level 5: Undeveloped land is unaffected by the project. A substantial area of undeveloped land is restored.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the area of undeveloped land affected by the project.

A.1 The project team should assess the project impacted area, specifying land by category depending on its intended use (agricultural land, populated places, specially protected areas and sites etc). The assessment should cover undeveloped land. Undeveloped land includes specially protected areas and sites, land assigned to forest and water resources.

A.2 The assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.

A.3 The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.

(B) Share of undeveloped land in the project impacted area:

- **for Level 1** – 50 % - 75 %;
- **for Level 2** – 25 % - 49.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – 0.1 % - 24.9 %;
- **for Levels 4 and 5** – undeveloped land is unaffected by the project.

B.1 The project team should calculate the share of undeveloped land in the project impacted area, using the information specified in Requirement A.1. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The share of undeveloped land in the project impacted area is calculated as the ratio of undeveloped land affected by the project to the total project impacted area. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.

(C) Ensure that the project restores a substantial area of undeveloped land.

C.1 The project team should provide evidence that the project restores a substantial area of non-undeveloped land to the condition of undeveloped land that therefore may be transferred to undeveloped land categories.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of assessing the area of agricultural land.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B) Calculated share of agricultural land in the project impacted area.

(C) Documentary evidence that the project restores a substantial area of agricultural land.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-4** Sustainable use of undeveloped land

6 Level 1
A + B

Analysis and assessment of impact on biodiversity

12 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Preparation of the plan and management mechanisms

27 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and updating

45 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

20 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Substantial improvement of biodiversity

A Assess biodiversity in the area affected by the project.

B Assess the project's impact on biodiversity and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to conserve biodiversity.

D Formulate a biodiversity conservation plan.

E Carry out the biodiversity conservation plan.

F Evaluate progress in carrying out the biodiversity conservation plan on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the biodiversity conservation plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

G Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's impact on biodiversity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the biodiversity conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

H Organise independent verification on the biodiversity conservation plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

I Provide unrestricted access to the biodiversity conservation plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J Ensure that the project substantially improves biodiversity.

Description

Throughout the life cycle of an infrastructure project, it is necessary to give due consideration to the potential impact on the variability among living organisms and their habitats. Anthropogenic activities often threaten biodiversity. Threats to conservation include industrial land development, inadequate construction planning and management, changes in river beds, pollution, invasive species, climate change and other factors. The project team should take measures to ensure that the negative impact of the project on biodiversity in the project impacted area is completely prevented. If it is not possible to prevent the negative impact, the project team should take measures to minimise it and restore biodiversity at all stages of the project life cycle.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Biodiversity in the project impacted area is assessed. Work is done on assessing the project's impact on biodiversity and assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project team formulates the biodiversity conservation plan and introduces organisational mechanisms to carry out and monitor the plan and manage the relevant processes, including by forming a special task force.

Level 3: The biodiversity conservation plan is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of biodiversity conservation are ensured, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in the relevant processes and by organising independent verification.

Level 5: Biodiversity is substantially improved.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess biodiversity in the project impacted area.

A.1 *The project team should provide a comprehensive description of biodiversity in the project impacted area. The description should be valid as at a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. To assess biodiversity, the project team should use a full range of available sources of information, including studies, collections, reference books, publications, archival documents, data from expert organisations, data from national ecological monitoring services, and data from public institutions, activists and local residents. The description should include:*

- *analysing the status of plants, including qualitative and quantitative information about numbers and species, specifying rare and endangered species, and about the particularities of the distribution of floral species;*
- *analysing the status of animals, including qualitative and quantitative information about numbers and species, specifying rare and endangered species, and about the particularities of the distribution of faunal species;*
- *listing rare and endangered floral and faunal species in the project impacted area;*
- *analysing the status of other components of the natural environment, such as air, water resources (including surface water and groundwater), land (including soil), forest resources, subsurface resources and the geologic environment, natural ecosystems, ecological issues, and natural landscapes;*
- *analysing existing threats to biodiversity (for example, environmental pollution, lost native habitats, fragmented natural ecosystems and habitats, transformed traditional landscapes, invasive species, poaching, excessive use of biological resources, wildfires, hazardous organisms, forest diseases, and potential climate change);*
- *analysing the availability and condition of specially protected natural areas, special legal status areas of natural resources, and other environmentally sensitive areas (if applicable);*
- *analysing the availability and condition of traditional places of residence and economic activity of indigenous minorities and assessing the role of biodiversity in their traditional way of life (if applicable). The assessment should include using special-purpose methods.*

A.2 *The description should take into account regulatory requirements.*

A.3 *The description should take into account generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

A.4 *The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

A.5 *The findings of the assessment are given consideration in design documents.*

(B) Assess the project's impact on biodiversity and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess the project's impact on biodiversity. The findings of the assessment include a description of the ecosystems affected by the project, their specific elements and characteristics, floral and faunal species, and other components of the natural environment, specifying the degree and nature of the project's impact on their condition, including its strength, scale, duration and probability, and the relevant managerial mechanisms. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.2 *Assessing the project's impact on biodiversity includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

B.3 *The assessment of the project's impact on biodiversity should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

B.4 *It is necessary to assess whether and how the project's impact on biodiversity is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.5 *Assessing whether the project's impact on biodiversity is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.6 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the project's impact on biodiversity is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to conserve biodiversity.

C.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to decision-making with respect to biodiversity conservation.*

C.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.*

C.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to decision-making with respect to biodiversity conservation should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(D) Formulate a biodiversity conservation plan.

D.1 *The project team should formulate a biodiversity conservation plan.*

D.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

D.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:*

- *measures are taken to prevent and minimise the negative impact on biodiversity, including natural ecosystems, natural landscapes and their elements;*
- *economic and other activities are not conducted if their effects are unpredictable for biodiversity and may degrade natural ecosystems, change and/or destroy genetic resources of plants, animals and other organisms, fragment natural ecosystems and habitats, deplete natural resources and make other negative changes to the environment;*
- *measures are taken to prevent the negative impact on the health of plants and animals;*
- *biodiversity of floral and faunal species is conserved and restored;*
- *rare and endangered floral and*

faunal species and their habitats are conserved and restored;

- *habitats of floral and faunal species are conserved and restored;*
- *water bodies, land, soil, forests and other vegetation are conserved and restored;*
- *measures are taken to ensure the stable functioning of natural ecosystems, conserve natural landscapes and prevent negative changes to the natural environment;*
- *protection is provided against invasive species;*
- *the abundance (evenness) of floral and faunal species is conserved and restored;*
- *measures are taken to preserve the number of plants and animals;*
- *indicative floral and faunal species are identified as indicators of ecological quality to assess the evaluate biological condition of the environment, including species and groups of plants, animals etc;*
- *measures are taken to remedy the negative impact on biodiversity, including compensation for damage;*
- *biodiversity monitoring is organised and conducted.*

D.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(E) Carry out the biodiversity conservation plan.

E.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the biodiversity conservation plan on a regular basis.

F.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the biodiversity conservation plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the biodiversity conservation plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

F.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the biodiversity conservation plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(G) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's impact on biodiversity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the biodiversity conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

G.1 *Assessing the project's impact on biodiversity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the biodiversity conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the biodiversity conservation plan and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.*

(H) Organise independent verification on the biodiversity conservation plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

H.1 *The biodiversity conservation plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

H.2 *Undependent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(I) Provide unrestricted access to the biodiversity conservation plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

I.1 *The biodiversity conservation plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

(J) Ensure that the project substantially improves biodiversity.

J.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the project improves substantially, above the current regulatory requirements, biodiversity, which is expressed, for example, in restoring biodiversity after damage to floral and faunal species, protecting floral and faunal species, enabling rare and endangered floral and faunal species to return to their native habitats, and improving habitats of floral and faunal species.*

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of biodiversity assessment.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Findings of assessing the project's impact on biodiversity.
- Findings of assessing whether the project's impact on biodiversity is permitted.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(C) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(D) Biodiversity conservation plan.

(E) Report on biodiversity conservation plan implementation.

(F) Report on biodiversity conservation plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(G)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H)

- Report on independent verification on the biodiversity conservation plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the biodiversity conservation plan.

(I) Online platforms used to publish the biodiversity conservation plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information.

(J) Documentary evidence that the project substantially improves biodiversity.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-7** Aquatic ecosystems conservation

6 Level 1
A + B

Analysis and assessment of impact on aquatic ecosystems

12 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Preparation of the plan and management mechanisms

27 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and updating

45 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

20 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Substantial improvement of aquatic ecosystems

A Assess aquatic ecosystems in the area affected by the project.

B Assess the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to conserve aquatic ecosystems.

D Formulate an aquatic ecosystems conservation plan.

E Carry out the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan.

F Evaluate progress in carrying out the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

G Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

H Organise independent verification on the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

I Provide unrestricted access to the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J Ensure that the project substantially improves aquatic ecosystems.

Description

Infrastructure projects should ensure that aquatic ecosystems of oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, wetlands, artificial water bodies (for example, canals and reservoirs) and other water bodies are conserved and are not degraded. The infrastructure project should prevent a negative impact on aquatic ecosystems and on the life and health of aquatic plants and animals. Aquatic ecosystems fulfil important ecological and socioeconomic functions. For instance, they have a significant role in supplying people with drinking water and food resources. The project team should ensure the conservation of natural and artificial aquatic ecosystems and take the necessary measures to remedy any previous damage.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Aquatic ecosystems in the project impacted area are analysed. Work is done on assessing the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems and assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project team formulates the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan and introduces organisational mechanisms to carry out and monitor the plan and manage the relevant processes, including by forming a special task force.

Level 3: The aquatic ecosystems conservation plan is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of aquatic ecosystems conservation are ensured, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in the relevant processes and by organising independent verification.

Level 5: Aquatic ecosystems are substantially improved.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess aquatic ecosystems in the project impacted area.

A.1 *The project team should provide a comprehensive description of aquatic ecosystems in the project impacted area. The description covers physical and geographical characteristics of aquatic ecosystems (zone and climate characteristics, topographic features, depths, aquatic environments etc), resilience and reproduction characteristics, information about biocoenosis, floral and faunal species, characteristics of populations, characteristics of habitats etc. To assess aquatic ecosystems, the project team should use a full range of available sources of information, including studies, collections, reference books, publications, archival documents, data from expert organisations, data from national ecological monitoring services, and data from public institutions, activists and local residents. The assessment should include using special-purpose methods (for example, hydrogeological methods, oceanographic studies, species distribution modelling etc).*

A.2 *The description should take into account regulatory requirements.*

A.3 *The description should take into account generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

A.4 *The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

A.5 *The findings of the assessment are given consideration in design documents.*

(B) Assess the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems. The findings of the assessment include a description of the aquatic ecosystems affected by the project, their specific elements and characteristics, and floral and faunal species, specifying the degree and nature of the project's impact on their condition, including its strength, scale and duration, and the relevant managerial mechanisms. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle. Assessing the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems uses special-purpose analysis (for example, hydrogeological methods, oceanographic studies, species distribution modelling etc).*

B.2 *Assessing the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

B.3 *The assessment of the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

B.4 *It is necessary to assess whether and how the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.5 *Assessing whether the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.6 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to conserve aquatic ecosystems.

C.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to decision-making with respect to aquatic ecosystems conservation.*

C.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.*

C.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to decision-making with respect to aquatic ecosystems conservation should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(D) Formulate an aquatic ecosystems conservation plan.

D.1 *The project team should formulate a aquatic ecosystems conservation plan.*

D.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

D.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:*

- *measures are taken to prevent the negative impact on aquatic ecosystems and their elements;*
- *measures are taken to minimise the negative impact on aquatic ecosystems and the health of plants and animals;*
- *physical and geographical characteristics of aquatic ecosystems are preserved;*
- *biocoenosis of aquatic ecosystems is conserved;*
- *measures are taken to preserve the number of plants and animals;*
- *the hydrological regime is maintained to ensure the most favourable conditions for the reproduction of aquatic biological resources;*
- *aquatic ecosystems monitoring is organised and conducted.*

D.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(E) Carry out the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan.

E.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan on a regular basis.

F.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

F.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(G) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

G.1 *Assessing the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.*

(H) Organise independent verification on the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

H.1 *The aquatic ecosystems conservation plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

H.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(I) Provide unrestricted access to the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

I.1 *The aquatic ecosystems conservation plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

(J) Ensure that the project substantially improves aquatic ecosystems.

J.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the project improves substantially, above the current regulatory requirements, aquatic ecosystems, which is expressed, for example, in restoring aquatic ecosystems after destruction or damage, increasing the resilience of aquatic ecosystems, and improving their physical and geographical characteristics.*

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of aquatic ecosystems assessment.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Findings of assessing the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems.
- Findings of assessing whether the project's impact on aquatic ecosystems is permitted.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(C) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(D) Aquatic ecosystems conservation plan.

(E) Report on aquatic ecosystems conservation plan implementation.

(F) Report on aquatic ecosystems conservation plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(G)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H)

- Report on independent verification on the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan.

(I) Online platforms used to publish the aquatic ecosystems conservation plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information.

(J) Documentary evidence that the project substantially improves aquatic ecosystems.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-6** Biodiversity conservation
- **EC-8** Groundwater conservation
- **EC-9** Reduction of water intensity

8 Level 1
A + B

Analysis and assessment of impact on groundwater

14 Level 2
A + B + C + D

Preparation of the plan and management mechanisms

27 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F

Plan implementation and updating

45 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I

Quality and transparency of plan implementation

21 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J

Substantial improvement of groundwater

A Analyse groundwater in the area affected by the project.

B Assess the project's impact on groundwater and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

C Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to conserve groundwater.

D Formulate a groundwater conservation plan.

E Carry out the groundwater conservation plan.

F Evaluate progress in carrying out the groundwater conservation plan on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the groundwater conservation plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

G Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's impact on groundwater, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the groundwater conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

H Organise independent verification on the groundwater conservation plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

I Provide unrestricted access to the groundwater conservation plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J Ensure that the project substantially improves groundwater.

Description

Groundwater is a significant source of drinking water. Protecting wellheads and groundwater recharge areas reduces the probability of pollution and ensures that natural purification is effective. The condition of groundwater depends on many factors, each of which may negatively affect its quality. Groundwater pollution can have a negative effect on flora and fauna and on the health of people. The project team should formulate a groundwater conservation plan to materially reduce the risks of groundwater pollution by completely or partially decreasing effluents at all stages of the project life cycle.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: Groundwater in the project impacted area is analysed. Work is done on assessing the project's impact on groundwater and assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project team formulates the groundwater conservation plan and introduces organisational mechanisms to carry out and monitor the plan and manage the relevant processes, including by forming a special task force.

Level 3: The groundwater conservation plan is integrated into the project by implementing relevant organisational and managerial mechanisms and monitoring the achievement of goals and targets.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of groundwater conservation are ensured, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in the relevant processes and by organising independent verification.

Level 5: Groundwater is substantially improved.

Assessment Elements

(A) Analyse groundwater in the project impacted area.

A.1 *The project team should provide a comprehensive description of groundwater in the project impacted area. The description covers sources of groundwater and its chemical composition, classification and pollution level. To analyse groundwater, the project team should use a full range of available sources of information, including archival documents, data from expert organisations, data from national ecological monitoring services, and field data. The analysis should include using special-purpose methods (for example, barometrical, geometrical and hydrogeological methods; computer modelling).*

A.2 *The description should take into account regulatory requirements.*

A.3 *The description should take into account generally accepted governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

A.4 *The analysis should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

A.5 *The findings of the analysis are given consideration in design documents.*

(B) Assess the project's impact on groundwater and assess whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess the project's impact on groundwater. The assessment should include analysing the project's impact on the chemical, mineral and bacteriological composition of groundwater, specifying the degree and nature of the project's impact on its condition, including its strength, scale and duration. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle. Assessing the project's impact on groundwater uses special-purpose analysis (for example, chemical and toxicological analysis, hydrogeological study, microbiological examination).*

B.2 *Assessing the project's impact on groundwater includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

B.3 *The assessment of the project's impact on groundwater should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

B.4 *It is necessary to assess whether and how the project's impact on groundwater is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.5 *Assessing whether the project's impact on groundwater is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.6 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the project's impact on groundwater is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to conserve groundwater.

C.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to decision-making with respect to groundwater conservation.*

C.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.*

C.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to decision-making with respect to groundwater conservation should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(D) Formulate a groundwater conservation plan.

D.1 *The project team should formulate a groundwater conservation plan.*

D.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

D.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:*

- *water discharges back into the ground;*
- *the use of impermeable surfaces is reduced;*
- *other ecosystem solutions are introduced (for example, rain gardens, bio-drainage systems, subsurface systems, green roofs, inflow seepage);*
- *sanitary protection zones are set up, and economic activities within their boundaries comply with their requirements;*
- *wastewater treatment methods are improved in order to prevent effluents from going into groundwater;*
- *industrial water supply and sewerage systems employ recirculation methods;*
- *artificial geochemical barriers based on the conversion of effluents into sediments;*
- *effluent systems are provided with insulation;*
- *measures are taken to prevent groundwater reduction and preserve groundwater accessibility;*
- *measures are taken to prevent groundwater pollution;*
- *pollutant spills and leaks are prevented;*
- *groundwater monitoring is organised and conducted.*

D.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to the measures, mechanisms and instruments specified in the plan. KPIs are both qualitative and quantitative.*

(E) Carry out the groundwater conservation plan.

E.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced, including their technical and technological solutions and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(F)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the groundwater conservation plan on a regular basis.

F.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the groundwater conservation plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments, including their technical and technological solutions, and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the groundwater conservation plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

F.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the groundwater conservation plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(G) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's impact on groundwater, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the groundwater conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

G.1 *Assessing the project's impact on groundwater, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the groundwater conservation plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the groundwater conservation plan and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.*

(H) Organise independent verification on the groundwater conservation plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

H.1 *The groundwater conservation plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

H.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(I) Provide unrestricted access to the groundwater conservation plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

I.1 *The groundwater conservation plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

(J) Ensure that the project substantially improves groundwater.

J.1 *The project team should provide evidence that the project improves substantially, above the current regulatory requirements, groundwater, which is expressed, for example, in organising accident management for groundwater catchment areas and/or sanitary protection zones and restoring natural properties of groundwater.*

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of groundwater analysis.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Findings of assessing the project's impact on groundwater.
- Findings of assessing whether the project's impact on groundwater is permitted.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(C) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(D) Groundwater conservation plan.

(E) Report on groundwater conservation plan implementation.

(F) Report on groundwater conservation plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(G)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H)

- Report on independent verification on the groundwater conservation plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the groundwater conservation plan.

(I) Online platforms used to publish the groundwater conservation plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information.

(J) Documentary evidence that the project substantially improves groundwater.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investmentsы"

Related Credits

- **EC-7** Aquatic ecosystems conservation
- **EC-9** Reduction of water intensity

80 EC-9 Reduction of water intensity

6 Level 1
A + B

Assessment of water intensity

- A Assess the project's water intensity.
- B Assess whether the project's water intensity meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

12 Level 2
A + B + C + D + E + F

Reduction of specific water consumption
- » drinkable water: 25% to 49.9%
- » drinkable and undrinkable water: 20% to 29.9%

- C Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to reduce the project's water intensity.
- D Formulate a water intensity reduction plan.
- E Reduction of specific drinkable water consumption: 25% to 49.9%.
- F Reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption: 20% to 29.9%.

20 Level 3
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H

Reduction of specific water consumption
- » drinkable water: 50% to 74.9%
- » drinkable and undrinkable water: 30% to 39.9%

- G Carry out the water intensity reduction plan.
- H Evaluate progress in carrying out the water intensity reduction plan on a regular basis.

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

Update the water intensity reduction plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

- E Reduction of specific drinkable water consumption: 50% to 74.9%.
- F Reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption: 30% to 39.9%.

30 Level 4
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J + K

Reduction of specific water consumption
- » drinkable water 75% and above
- » drinkable and undrinkable water: 40% to 49.9%

- I Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's water intensity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the water intensity reduction plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.
- J Organise independent verification on the water intensity reduction plan and on the outcomes of the plan.
- K Provide unrestricted access to the water intensity reduction plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.
- E Reduction of specific drinkable water consumption: 75% and above.
- F Reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption: 40% to 49.9%.

12 Level 5
A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J + K + L

Supply of drinkable and/or undrinkable water

Reduction of specific water consumption
- » drinkable and undrinkable water: 50% and above

- L Ensure that the project supplies the area affected by the project with drinkable and/or undrinkable water.
- F Reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption: 50% and above.

Description

Infrastructure projects should ensure the sustainable use of water resources in order to ensure that water resources are available to future generations, increase resource conservation and reduce the negative impact on the environment and climate. Measures related to sustainable water consumption are aimed at preventing any significant water loss, including due to the use of ineffective technologies or types of equipment, spills and leaks. In order to ensure the efficient use of water, it is necessary to introduce new technologies ensuring low consumption in respect of drinkable and undrinkable water or zero-consumption and setting up recirculation systems that include the collection and appropriate treatment of water resources for subsequent reuse at the stages of asset construction and operation.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The project team assesses the project's water intensity, including providing a baseline forecast, and assesses whether the project's water intensity meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project team formulates the water intensity reduction plan and introduces organisational mechanisms to carry out and monitor the plan and manage the relevant processes, including by forming a special task force. The reduction of specific drinkable water consumption is 25 % – 49.9 %. The reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption is 20 % – 29.9 %.

Level 3: The task force implements and monitors the plan, evaluating progress in carrying out the plan on a regular basis. The plan is updated on a regular basis, including based on the findings of the evaluation. The reduction of specific drinkable water consumption is 50 % – 74.9 %. The reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption is 30 % – 39.9 %.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of plan implementation are ensured, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in relevant processes and by organising independent verification. The reduction of specific drinkable water consumption is 75 % and above. The reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption is 40 % – 49.9 %.

Level 5: The project supplies the project impacted area with drinkable and/or undrinkable water. The reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption is 50 % and above.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the project's water intensity.

A.1 *The project team should assess the project's water intensity. The project's water intensity should be assessed separately with respect to specific drinkable water consumption and with respect to specific undrinkable water consumption. The assessment should include providing a baseline forecast on the project's water intensity at each stage of the project life cycle for the reporting periods specified by the project team (the reporting period should not exceed six months). The baseline forecast should cover separately specific drinkable water consumption and specific undrinkable water consumption. Water intensity can be lower than specified in the baseline forecast, including by using technical and technological solutions that are not currently required by law or industry standards. Whether or not such solutions can be used should not be included in baseline forecast calculations. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

A.2 *Assessing the project's water intensity includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

A.3 *The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

(B) Assess whether the project's water intensity meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess whether and how the project's water intensity is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.2 *Assessing whether water intensity is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.3 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether water intensity is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to reduce the project's water intensity.

C.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to decision-making with respect to water intensity reduction.*

C.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.*

C.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to decision-making with respect to water intensity reduction should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(D) Formulate a water intensity reduction plan.

D.1 *The project team should formulate a water intensity reduction plan.*

D.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

D.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:*

- *water recycling and/or reuse systems are used;*
- *alternative water supply methods are used;*
- *production processes affecting the project's water intensity are improved;*
- *water saving techniques are*

brought into use;
- *water resource consumption is streamlined;*
- *a system is implemented to account for and monitor water resource consumption.*

D.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to water intensity below the baseline forecast for the relevant reporting periods.*

(E) Reduction of specific drinkable water consumption:

- **for Level 2** – 25 % – 49.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – 50 % – 74.9 %;
- **for Levels 4 and 5** – 75 % and above.

E.1 *The project team should assess the actual specific consumption of drinkable water.*

E.2 *The assessment should include categorising the actual specific consumption of drinkable water by time, by process etc.*

E.3 *The assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.*

E.4 *The project team should calculate the reduction of specific drinkable water consumption, using the information specified in Requirements A.1 and E.1. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The reduction of specific drinkable water consumption is calculated as the absolute value of the growth index on the basis of the ratio of the actual specific consumption of drinkable water to the baseline forecast of specific drinkable water consumption for the relevant reporting period. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.*

(F) Reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption:

- **for Level 2** – 20 % – 29.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – 30 % – 39.9 %;
- **for Level 4** – 40 % – 49.9 %;
- **for Level 5** – 50 % and above.

F.1 *The project team should assess the actual specific consumption of drinkable and undrinkable water.*

F.2 *The assessment should include categorising the actual specific consumption of drinkable and undrinkable water by time, by process etc.*

F.3 *The assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.*

F.4 *The project team should calculate the reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption using the information specified in Requirements A.1 and F.1. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption is calculated as the absolute value of the growth index on the basis of the ratio of the actual specific consumption of drinkable and undrinkable water to the baseline forecast of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption for the relevant reporting period. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.*

(G) Carry out the water intensity reduction plan.

G.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(H)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the water intensity reduction plan on a regular basis.

H.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the water intensity reduction plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the water intensity reduction plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

H.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the water intensity reduction plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(I) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's water intensity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the water intensity reduction plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

I.1 *Assessing the project's water intensity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the water intensity reduction plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the water intensity reduction plan and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.*

(J) Organise independent verification on the water intensity reduction plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

J.1 *The water intensity reduction plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

J.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(K) Provide unrestricted access to the water intensity reduction plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

K.1 The water intensity reduction plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.

(L) Ensure that the project supplies the project impacted area with drinkable and/or undrinkable water.

L.1 The project team should provide evidence that the project supplies the project impacted area with drinkable and/or undrinkable water.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of water intensity assessment.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B) Findings of assessing whether the project's water intensity meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

(C) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(D) Water intensity reduction plan.

(E) Calculated reduction of specific drinkable water consumption.

(F) Calculated reduction of specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption.

(G) Report on water intensity reduction plan implementation.

(H) Report on water intensity reduction plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(I)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.
- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(J)

- Report on independent verification on the water intensity reduction plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the water intensity reduction plan.

(K) Online platforms used to publish the water intensity reduction plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and other relevant information.

(L) Evidence that the project impacted area is supplied with drinkable and/or undrinkable water.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-7** Aquatic ecosystems conservation
- **EC-8** Groundwater conservation

70 EC-10 Energy efficiency

5 Level 1 A + B Assessment of energy intensity	A Assess the project's energy intensity. B Assess whether the project's energy intensity meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.			
12 Level 2 A + B + C + D + E Reduction of energy intensity: 10% to 24.9%		C Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to reduce the project's energy intensity. D Formulate an energy intensity reduction plan. E Reduction of energy intensity: 10% to 24.9%.		
21 Level 3 A + B + C + D + E + F + G Reduction of energy intensity: 25% to 49.9%			F Carry out the energy intensity reduction plan. G Evaluate progress in carrying out the energy intensity reduction plan on a regular basis. AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated) Update the energy intensity reduction plan based on the findings of the evaluation. E Reduction of energy intensity: 25% to 49.9%.	
32 Level 4 A + B + C + D + E + F + G + H + I + J Reduction of energy intensity: 50% and above				H Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's energy intensity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the energy intensity reduction plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan. I Organise independent verification on the energy intensity reduction plan and on the outcomes of the plan. J Provide unrestricted access to the energy intensity reduction plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information. E Ensure that energy intensity is reduced by 50% and above.
Level 5 N/A				

Description

Infrastructure projects consistent with the principles of the Methodology should be energy efficient. The project team should set and achieve goals of reducing the energy intensity of the project as a whole and individual processes, technologies and types of equipment. As a major tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency has the unique potential for simultaneously contributing to long-term energy security, economic growth and the improvement of health and well-being. The project team should formulate an energy intensity reduction plan in accordance with leading governance standards and legal requirements.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The project team assesses the project's energy intensity, including providing a baseline forecast, and assesses whether the project's energy intensity meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

Level 2: The project team formulates the energy intensity reduction plan and introduces organisational mechanisms to carry out and monitor the plan and manage the relevant processes, including by forming a special task force. The reduction of energy intensity is 10 % – 24.9 %.

Level 3: The task force implements and monitors the plan, evaluating progress in carrying out the plan on a regular basis. The plan is updated on a regular basis, including based on the findings of the evaluation. The reduction of energy intensity is 25 % – 49.9 %.

Level 4: The quality and transparency of plan implementation are ensured, including by involving government authorities, specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and project stakeholders in relevant processes and by organising independent verification. The reduction of energy intensity is 50 % and above.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the project's energy intensity.

A.1 *The project team should assess the project's energy intensity. The assessment should include providing a baseline forecast on the project's energy intensity at each stage of the project life cycle for the reporting periods specified by the project team (the reporting period should not exceed six months). Energy intensity can be lower than specified in the baseline forecast, including by using technical and technological solutions that are not currently required by law or industry standards. Whether or not such solutions can be used should not be included in baseline forecast calculations. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

A.2 *Assessing the project's energy intensity includes examining the implementation of comparable projects.*

A.3 *The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

(B) Assess whether the project's energy intensity meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

B.1 *The project team should assess whether and how the project's energy intensity is permitted under regulatory requirements and governance standards. The assessment should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

B.2 *Assessing whether the project's energy intensity is permitted should cover both compliance with regulatory requirements and compliance with governance standards containing recommendations and best practices.*

B.3 *If necessary and based on the findings of assessing whether the project's energy intensity is permitted, the project's characteristics should be adjusted.*

(C) Form a special task force and appoint responsible officers to reduce the project's energy intensity.

C.1 *The special task force should have formal status and authority related to decision-making with respect to energy intensity.*

C.2 *A list of task force members should be made, specifying their names, positions and contact details.*

C.3 *Roles and responsibilities related to decision-making with respect to energy intensity should be expressly assigned to each task force member.*

(D) Formulate an energy intensity reduction plan.

D.1 *The project team should formulate an energy intensity reduction plan.*

D.2 *The plan should cover all stages of the project life cycle.*

D.3 *The plan should contain measures, mechanisms and instruments, including ensuring and specifying that:*

- *production processes are improved;*
- *energy resource consumption is streamlined;*
- *electricity supply schemes are improved;*
- *standard equipment performance indicators are maintained;*
- *power installations are rehabilitated and modernised;*
- *new technologies and equipment are brought into use;*
- *energy metering equipment and systems are improved.*

D.4 *The plan should contain a list of key performance indicators (KPIs) relating to energy intensity below the baseline forecast for the relevant reporting periods.*

(E) Reduction of energy intensity:

- **for Level 2** – 10 % – 24.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – 25 % – 49.9 %;
- **for Level 4** – 50 % and above.

E.1 *The project team should assess the project's actual energy intensity.*

E.2 *Assessing the project's actual energy intensity should include calculating energy consumption by generation process, by technology, by type of equipment etc.*

E.3 *he assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.*

E.4 *The project team should calculate the reduction of energy intensity using the information specified in Requirements A.1 and E.1. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The reduction of energy intensity is calculated as the absolute value of the growth index on the basis of the ratio of the project's actual energy intensity to the baseline forecast of energy intensity for the relevant reporting period. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.*

(F) Carry out the energy intensity reduction plan.

F.1 *The project team should provide evidence that measures, mechanisms and instruments are introduced and that the attainment of KPIs is monitored, for example in the form of a plan implementation report or its equivalent specifying the results of introducing measures, mechanisms and instruments and the findings of monitoring the attainment of KPIs.*

(G)

1. Evaluate progress in carrying out the energy intensity reduction plan on a regular basis.

G.1.1 *Progress in carrying out the energy intensity reduction plan is evaluated at the project team's meetings that consider reports on the introduction of measures, mechanisms and instruments and on the attainment of KPIs as specified in the plan. Evaluations are to be made at least once every six months. The proceedings and outcomes of the meetings are recorded in the minutes.*

AND (if progress in carrying out the plan is evaluated)

2. Update the energy intensity reduction plan based on the findings of the evaluation.

G.2.1 *The evaluation of progress in carrying out the plan should include explanation whether or not the energy intensity reduction plan requires any amendments, including based on the findings of the evaluation. Relevant decisions are to be taken at least once every six months.*

(H) Involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors in assessing the project's energy intensity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the energy intensity reduction

plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan.

H.1 *Assessing the project's energy intensity, assessing whether the project's impact meets regulatory requirements and governance standards, formulating the energy intensity reduction plan, and evaluating progress in carrying out the plan should involve project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors mandated and authorised to discuss the relevant issues. Government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors are represented at the meetings, including in respect of preparing and carrying out the energy intensity reduction plan and in respect of integrating the relevant issues into project decision-making.*

(I) Organise independent verification on the energy intensity reduction plan and on the outcomes of the plan.

I.1 *The energy intensity reduction plan and the outcomes of the plan should be externally audited by independent experts. Independent verification should cover the plan and plan implementation reports.*

I.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(J) Provide unrestricted access to the energy intensity reduction plan, plan implementation reports, and other relevant information.

J.1 *The energy intensity reduction plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors, and other relevant information (for example, the minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of working meetings) are published on the website of at least one organisation included in the project team or on social networks and other publicly available online platforms. Any published information should be kept updated.*

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of energy intensity assessment.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B)

- Findings of assessing whether the project's energy intensity meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

(C) Documents proving the task force's formal status and authority. List of task force members, specifying their names, positions and contact details and stating their roles and responsibilities within the task force.

(D) Energy intensity reduction plan.

(E) Calculated reduction of energy intensity.

(F) Report on energy intensity reduction plan implementation.

(G) Report on energy intensity reduction plan implementation. Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(H)

- Report on the involvement of project stakeholders.
- Report on the involvement of government authorities and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors.

- Minutes, audio recordings and video recordings of meetings; photographs.

(I)

- Report on independent verification on the energy intensity reduction plan.
- Report on independent verification on the outcomes of the energy intensity reduction plan.

(J) Online platforms used to publish the energy intensity reduction plan, plan implementation reports, reports on the involvement of project stakeholders, government authorities, and specialised organisations for attracting investments and interacting with investors and other relevant information.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-11** Use of renewable energy sources

55 EC-11 Use of renewable energy sources

4 Level 1
A + B

Share of renewable energy sources: 1% to 14.9%

6 Level 2
A + B

Share of renewable energy sources: 15% to 29.9%

10 Level 3
A + B

Share of renewable energy sources: 30% to 49.9%

15 Level 4
A + B

Share of renewable energy sources: 50% and above

20 Level 5
A + B + C

Positive balance of renewable energy

A Assess the project's energy consumption from renewable energy sources.

B Share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption: 1% to 14.9%.

B Share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption: 15% to 29.9%.

B Share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption: 30% to 49.9%.

B Share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption: 50% and above.

C Ensure that renewable energy generated by the project exceeds its consumption.

Description

Infrastructure projects should focus on the use of renewable energy sources, which substantially reduces hazardous and greenhouse gas emissions. The transition to renewable energy is an important component of the low-carbon development concept shared by the world community. The share of renewable energy in global energy supply demonstrates steady growth due to countries' commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease production costs of wind and solar energy.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption is 1 % - 14.9 %.

Level 2: The share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption is 15 % - 29.9 %.

Level 3: The share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption is 30 % - 49.9 %.

Level 4: The share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption is 50 % and above.

Level 5: Renewable energy generated by the project exceeds its consumption.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the project's energy consumption from renewable energy sources.

A.1 *The project team should assess the project's energy consumption by energy resource. The assessment should cover energy consumption from renewable energy sources.*

A.2 *The assessment should include categorising renewable energy consumption by source (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass etc).*

A.3 *The assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.*

A.4 *The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.*

(B) hare of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption:

- **for Level 1** – 1 % to 14.9 %;
- **for Level 2** – 15 % to 29.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – 30 % to 49.9 %;
- **for Level 4 and 5** – 50 % and above.

B.1 *The project team should calculate the share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption, using the information specified in Requirement A.1. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption is calculated as the ratio of renewable energy consumption to the project's total energy consumption. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.*

(C)) Ensure that renewable energy generated by the project exceeds its consumption.

C.1 *The project team should provide calculations proving that renewable energy generated by the operating asset exceeds its consumption. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology.*

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of assessing the project's energy consumption from renewable energy sources.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B) Calculated share of renewable energy in the project's energy consumption.

(C) Evidence that renewable energy generated by the project exceeds its consumption.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-10** Energy efficiency

45 EC-12 Use of recycled materials

6 Level 1
A + B

Share of recycled materials: 5% to 14.9%

A Assess the quantity of recycled materials used in the project.

B Share of recycled materials in materials used in the project: 5% to 14.9%.

6 Level 2
A + B

Share of recycled materials: 15% to 24.9%

B Share of recycled materials in materials used in the project: 15% to 24.9%.

12 Level 3
A + B

Share of recycled materials: 25% to 49.9%

B Share of recycled materials in materials used in the project: 25% to 49.9%.

21 Level 4
A + B

Share of recycled materials: 50% and above

B Share of recycled materials in materials used in the project: 50% and above.

Level 5
N/A

Description

Infrastructure projects should focus on the use of recycled materials to ensure lower resource intensity and the sustainable use of natural resources. Recycled materials used in the construction and operation of infrastructure assets make it possible to decrease the consumption of non-renewable resources, prevent or reduce environmental pollution and, in some instances, bring down expenses due to lower production costs of recycled materials as compared with materials from natural sources.

Levels of Achievement

Level 1: The share of recycled materials in materials used in the project is 5 % - 14.9 %.

Level 2: The share of recycled materials in materials used in the project is 15 % - 24.9 %.

Level 3: The share of recycled materials in materials used in the project is 25 % - 49.9 %.

Level 4: The share of recycled materials in materials used in the project is 50 % and above.

Assessment Elements

(A) Assess the quantity of recycled materials used in the project.

A.1 The project team should assess the quantity of recycled materials used in the project.

A.2 The assessment should include categorising recycled materials ty type, by time, by generation process etc.

A.3 The assessment should start after the beginning of construction (no later than one year from the commencement date) and should be conducted at least once every six months.

A.4 The assessment should be conducted by a team of qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.

(B) Share of recycled materials in materials used in the project:

- **for Level 1** – 5 % to 14.9 %;
- **for Level 2** – 15 % to 24.9 %;
- **for Level 3** – 25 % to 49.9 %;
- **for Level 4** – 50 % and above.

B.1 The project team should calculate the share of recycled materials in materials used in the project, using the information specified in Requirement A.1. Calculations should cover a continuous period of six months ending on a date that is no later than six months after the date when documents are submitted for the assessment in accordance with the Methodology. The share of recycled materials in materials used in the project is calculated as the ratio of recycled materials used in the project to materials used in the project. The calculation result should be within one of the ranges of values.

Evidence Guidance

(A)

- Findings of assessing the quantity of recycled materials used in the project.
- CVs of qualified professionals.

(B) Calculated share of recycled materials in materials used in the project.

Relevant QII Principles

- **Principle 3** "Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments"

Related Credits

- **EC-1** Waste reduction

Bonus points

BONUS POINTS
A or B or C
10 points for an innovation, but not above 50 bonus points for each Methodology aspect
A The project uses innovative production methods, technologies or processes. OR B The project uses innovative management practices. OR C The project addresses aspects of sustainability not covered by the Methodology.

Description

The practice and conditions of implementing infrastructure projects constantly develop, which raises the requirements applicable to their quality. Although the Methodology contains a differentiated set of requirements in accordance with the highest standards, it is always possible to exceed them. This credit offers bonus points for exceptional effectiveness that exceeds the Methodology maximum values and for the use of innovative practices that facilitate the implementation of quality infrastructure projects.

Assessment Elements

(A) The project uses innovative production methods, technologies or processes.

A.1 *The project team should organise independent verification on innovation for the project's production methods, technologies or processes as defined by Federal Law No. 127-FZ of 23 August 1996 "On Science and Governmental Scientific and Technical Policy" and in accordance with the Oslo Manual.*

AND (both requirements should be fulfilled)

A.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(B) The project uses innovative management practices.

B.1 *The project team should organise independent verification on innovation for the project's management practices as defined by*

Federal Law No. 127-FZ of 23 August 1996 "On Science and Governmental Scientific and Technical Policy " and in accordance with the Oslo Manual.

AND (both requirements should be fulfilled)

B.2 *Independent verification should deliver a positive opinion.*

(C) The project addresses aspects of sustainability not covered by the Methodology.

C.1 *The project team provides the Certifier with a list of the project's aspects of sustainability not covered by the Methodology. The aspects included on the list should be substantiated.*

AND (both requirements should be fulfilled)

C.2 *In its official reply, the Certifier confirms that the project's aspects of sustainability not covered by the Methodology.*

Evidence Guidance

(A) Report on independent verification on innovation for the project's production methods, technologies or processes.
(B) Report on independent verification on innovation for the project's management practices.
(C) Official reply of the Certifier confirming that the project's aspects of sustainability not covered by the Methodology.

Relevant QII Principles

- **All principles**

Related Credits

- Bonus points can be awarded within any credit contained in the Methodology but as many times as permitted.

Glossary

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Land that is located outside the settlement and used for the needs of agriculture, as well as intended for these purposes.

Land Code of the Russian Federation No. 136-FZ of 25 October 2001.

AIR

A vital component of the environment which is a natural mixture of atmospheric gases located outside residential, industrial and other facilities.

Federal Law No. 96-FZ of 4 May 1999 "On the Air Protection".

APPRAISER

Professional accredited by the Certifier to carry out project assessment in accordance with the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS) and submit assessment results for subsequent verification.

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

Natural aquatic environment, in which living (animals, plants and other organisms) and its non-living elements interact as a unified functional whole and are interconnected by metabolism and energy exchange.

Model Water Code for the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, adopted at the twenty-seventh plenary session of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member states (Resolution No. 27-10 of 16 November 2006).

AQUATIC LAND

Land covered with surface waters concentrated in water bodies, land occupied by hydraulic and other facilities located on water bodies.

Land Code of the Russian Federation No. 136-FZ of 25 October 2001.

ASSET SAFETY EXAMINATION

Assessment of whether the asset's safety meets regulatory requirements and governance standards.

BASELINE FORECAST

Forecast of changes in an indicator specified in the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS) at each stage of the project life cycle for the reporting periods specified by the project team. The baseline forecast should develop based on the corresponding indicators industry average values and the corresponding indicators values in comparable projects, without including the use of technical and technological solutions that are not currently required by law or industry standards. The baseline forecast should serve as a reference point for achieving the indicator target values.

BIODIVERSITY

The diversity of life in all its traits, presented as three levels: genetic diversity (diversity of genes and alleles as variants of genes), species diversity, ecosystem diversity.

GOST R 57007-2016. National standard of the Russian Federation. Best available technology. Biodiversity. Terms and Definitions.

CARBON NEGATIVE PROJECT

An infrastructure project that removes more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere that it emits.

CERTIFIER

An entity providing the methodological support for the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS), accreditation an appraisers.

COMPARABLE PROJECT

A project similar in industry, technical, financial, legal characteristics, as well as the time and area of project implementation and other key characteristics.

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

A project cost-benefit analysis method used for infrastructure project assessment in order to make reasonable financial and investment decisions.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS

A project cost-effectiveness analysis method used for infrastructure project assessment in order to project option assessment by project costs required to achieve a corresponding project benefits.

CROSS-BORDER EFFECT

Positive or negative project's effect having an impact on foreign countries.

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS

An item of immovable property (including archaeological heritage assets) and other assets with territories historically associated with them, paintings, sculptures, arts and crafts, scientific and technological items and other artifacts, arising from historical event, having value in terms of history, archeology, architecture, urban planning, art, science and technology, aesthetics, ethnology or anthropology, social culture and are evidence of eras and civilizations, original sources of information on the culture emergence and evolution.

Federal Law of No. 73-FZ of 25 June 2002 "On cultural heritage assets (historical and cultural monuments) of the nationalities of the Russian Federation".

DEPARTMENTAL PROJECT

A project that ensures the achievement of goals and performance indicators of the federal executive body of Russia.

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1288 of 31 October 2018 "On the organization of project activities in the Government of the Russian Federation".

DIGITAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES

Information modeling technologies used for the design of buildings and infrastructure assets.

FEDERAL PROJECT

A project that ensures the achievement of goals, performance indicators and additional indicators, the fulfillment of national project's tasks and (or) the achievement of other goals and indicators, the fulfillment of other tasks on instructions of the President of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation, decision of the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for Strategic Development and National Projects, the Presidium of the Council, the curator of the relevant national project.

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation № 1288 of 31 October 2018 "On the organization of project activities in the Government of the Russian Federation".

FOREST LAND

Forest land and non-forest land, the composition of which is established by forest legislation.

Land Code of the Russian Federation No. 136-FZ of 25 October 2001.

GOVERNANCE STANDARD

A national or international document containing recommendations and best practices on a specific issue of the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS).

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

State authorities and local self-government authorities mandated and authorised to discuss the issues specified in the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS) relating to infrastructure project.

GREENHOUSE GASES

A gaseous constituent of the atmosphere of natural and anthropogenic origin, which absorbs and emits infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, atmosphere and clouds. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6).

National standard of the Russian Federation. GOST R ISO 14064-1-2007. Greenhouse gases. Part 1. Requirements and guidance for quantifying and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and removals at the organization level.

GRI STANDARDS

The standards for sustainability reporting, developed by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

For more information: globalreporting.org

GROUNDWATER

The water that exists in the rock mass of the upper part of the earth's crust in a liquid, solid and gaseous state.

INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION

A comprehensive assessment for determining the quality and effectiveness of the project team's implementation of specific requirements of the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS) and carried out by qualified professionals with expertise in all relevant areas.

INDICATOR SPECIES

Species of flora and fauna used as indicators of environmental quality for biological indicators of the environment, including species and groups of plants, animals and others.

Decree of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation No. 35-r of 25 November 2019 "On the approval of Methodological recommendations on the structure and content of programs for the conservation of biodiversity of commercial organizations".

INFRASTRUCTURE

A set of immovable property, consisting of one or more separate assets and (or) technological complexes, designed to ensure the activities of the transport, social, communal, energy and telecommunications sectors.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET

An item of immovable property and (or) a technological complex designed to ensure the activities of the transport, social, communal, energy and telecommunications sectors.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

A set of actions and their sequence for the construction and (or) reconstruction of a specific infrastructure asset or technological complex, their subsequent use (operation), implemented on the basis of a project agreement.

INITIATOR

An external applicant for project certification - project owner who is responsible for project implementation or investor interested in independent project assessment and/or receiving a certificate.

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

An alien species, the introduction and (or) distribution of which poses a threat to biodiversity.

GOST R 57007-2016. National standard of the Russian Federation. Best available technology. Biodiversity. Terms and Definitions.

IRIIS (IMPACT AND RESPONSIBLE INVESTING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY)

The system of quality assessment and certification of infrastructure projects.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR (KPI)

An indicator (qualitative or quantitative) reflecting the achievement of specific project goals specified in the plans.

LAND OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND SITES

Land that has a special environmental, scientific, historical, cultural, aesthetic, recreational, health-improving and other valuable significance, which is completely or partially withdrawn from economic use and turnover and for which a special legal regime is established in accordance with the decrees of state authorities of the Russian Federation, state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation or local self-government authorities.

Land Code of the Russian Federation No. 136-FZ of 25 October 2001.

LOCAL COMPANY

Company with at least two-thirds of employees whose residence (permanent or temporary place of residence) is in the project impacted area.

LOCAL JOB

The job of an employee whose residence (permanent or temporary place of residence) is in the project impacted area.

METHODS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE VALUE OF THE PROJECT'S PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Methods and tools for infrastructure project cost management at all stages of the project life cycle.

NATIONAL PROJECT

A project (program) that ensures the achievement of goals and performance indicators, the fulfillment of tasks determined by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 204 of 7 May 2018 "On national goals and strategic objectives of the development of the Russian Federation for the period until 2024"(hereinafter - the Decree), as well as, if necessary, the achievement of additional indicators and the fulfillment of additional tasks on instructions of the President of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation, decision of the Council under the President of the Russian Federation for Strategic Development and National Projects, the Presidium of the Council and to be developed in accordance with the Decree.

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1288 of 31 October 2018 "On the organization of project activities in the Government of the Russian Federation".

OFFLINE CHANNELS

Postal and telephone communications, advertisements in print media, face-to-face meetings, as well as other communication channels not related to the use of digital technologies.

ONLINE CHANNELS

Communication by e-mail, official social networks and project accounts, instant messaging systems, feedback form on the project official website, audio and video conferencing, as well as other communication channels inextricably linked with the use of digital technologies.

OSLO MANUAL

Oslo Manual: Guidelines for Collecting, Reporting and Using Data on Innovation. The reference guide for collecting and using data on innovation developed by Eurostat and OECD.

For more information: oecd.org

PEOPLE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

People (or groups of people) having difficulties moving independently, receiving services and information, or navigating in space. People with limited mobility include people with disabilities, people with limited health capabilities (temporarily or permanently), people with pushchairs and others.

Construction rules 59.13330.2016. Accessibility of buildings and structures for people with limited mobility. Updated edition of Building codes and regulations (SNiP) 35-01-2001.

PRINCIPLES FOR QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (QII PRINCIPLES)

The six principles approved by the leaders of the G20 countries in 2019 and encompass various aspects of preparing and carrying out infrastructure projects, including economic, governance, social and environmental aspects.

Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment:
Principle 1: Maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development

Principle 2: Raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost

Principle 3: Integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments

Principle 4: Building resilience against natural disasters and other risks

Principle 5: Integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment

Principle 6: Strengthening infrastructure governance

For more information: mof.go.jp

PROJECT ACCIDENT PREVENTION POLICY

The set of rules and recommendations for preventing project accidents. Project accident prevention policy is based on the assumption that any accident is preventable and that the infrastructure project company is obliged to provide occupational health, safety and well-being.

PROJECT BENEFIT

The measurable gain in project performance that is perceived as an advantage by one or more project stakeholders and contributes to the achievement of the project team's goals.

PROJECT IMPACTED AREA

The geographic area within which any project's effects exist.

PROJECT OPTIONS

A set of unique project options that reflect all the most significant alternatives for the project characteristics and are assessed to identify optimum project characteristics.

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Parties to the project agreement, the members of the special purpose entity (SPE) and other organisations contractually bound to carry out the project, including financiers, consultancies, contractors and other counterparties throughout the supply chain.

PROJECT RISK

The cumulative effect of the probabilities of occurrence of indefinite events that can have a negative or positive impact on the project goals.

PROJECT'S ENERGY INTENSITY (PROJECT'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY)

Project's specific energy consumption.

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

Persons (groups of persons), entities that have interests associated with the project, may influence any aspects of the project, and are affected or consider themselves to be affected by any project's effects.

PROJECT TEAM

A set of persons involved in infrastructure project implementation at all stages of project life cycle.

QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL

An individual with expertise in a specific area, confirmed by documents on education, occupational retraining or advanced training, as well as relevant professional experience.

RECYCLED MATERIALS

Waste renewable and refuse-derived materials designed to reuse.

REGIONAL PROJECT

A project that ensures the achievement of the goals, indicators and outcomes of federal project and contains measures that are statutorily within the purview of a regional government and within the purview of the governments of municipalities located in a Russian region.

Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1288 of 31 October 2018 "On the organization of project activities in the Government of the Russian Federation".

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES (RES)

Energy sources that formed from constant or sporadically emerging processes in nature, as well as the life cycle of flora and fauna and the life of human society. Renewable energy sources include solar energy, wind power, water energy (including wastewater energy), except for the use of such energy at pumped storage power plants, tidal power, wave power of water bodies, including rivers, seas, oceans, geothermal energy using special heat carriers, the low-grade thermal energy of earth, air, water using special heat carriers, biomass energy, which includes plants specially grown for energy, including trees, production and consumption waste, excluding waste obtained in the process of using hydrocarbon crude and fuel, biogas, gas emitted by production and consumption waste at waste deposits, gas generated at coal mines.

Federal Law No. 35-FZ of 26 March 2003 "On the electric power industry".

SAFETY IN DESIGN

A set of methods for identifying and assessing risks at the early stages of the infrastructure

asset design to prevent occupational accidents, fatalities, injuries and diseases throughout the entire project life cycle.

SATISFACTION SURVEY

Evaluation of the perception by project stakeholders or project employees of how their interests and / or demands associated with the project are fulfilled.

SOCIAL COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

A project cost-benefit analysis method in respect of project stakeholders used for infrastructure project assessment in order to make reasonable financial and investment decisions.

SOCIAL COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS

A project cost-effectiveness analysis method in respect of project stakeholders used for infrastructure project assessment in order to project option assessment by project costs required to achieve a corresponding project benefits.

SPECIALISED ORGANISATIONS FOR ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS AND INTERACTING WITH INVESTORS

An entity authorized by the relevant authorities of the federal, regional or municipal level to carry out the functions of investment projects support.

STAGES OF THE PROJECT LIFE CYCLE

A sequence of stages of the project preparation and implementation - initiation, structuring, design, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENT

Documented information developed, reviewed and approved by the state authorities of the Russian Federation, state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation, local self-government authorities and other participants in strategic planning.

Federal Law No. 172-FZ of 28 June 2014 "On strategic planning in the Russian Federation".

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT (SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION, SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION)

Substantial improvement of the situation in the specific sphere impacted by the project, above the current regulatory requirements, which is substantiated.

TASK FORCE

A group of persons managed specific processes of infrastructure project preparation and implementation and subordinated to the project team.

UNDEVELOPED LAND

Land of specially protected areas and sites, forest land and aquatic land.

Land Code of the Russian Federation No. 136-FZ of 25 October 2001.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN Member States in 2015 at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, are a global list of actions to be taken for ending poverty, ensuring environmental protection and tackling climate change, improving quality of life and reducing inequality around the world.

For more information: un.org

VERIFIER

A professional, group of professionals, entity or group of entities that are accredited by the Certifier to verify and confirm the results of the assessment carried out by the Initiator. Accreditation is carried out in accordance with the Certifier's requirements for expertise and skills, relevant to the corresponding aspects and credits of the quality assessment and certification of infrastructure project methodology (IRIIS).

WASTE

Residues of raw materials, materials, semi-finished products and other products generated by the project, which have lost their consumer properties completely or partially and are not used in the technological process by their characteristics.

GOST R 54098-2010. Resource saving. Secondary material resources. Terms and Definitions.

WATER INTENSITY

Project's specific drinkable and undrinkable water consumption.